Another guided-missile destroyer arriving on Saipan today. PAGE 2
SHS holds successful pet food distribution on Tinian, Rota. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 224

www.saipantribune.com | FRIDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2023 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COGNIA ACCREDITATION EXIT CONFERENCE
Interim Education commissioner Donna M. Flores, second from left, alongside senior director for Accountability, Research and Evaluation Dr. Rizalina Liwag and PSS Accreditation Program manager Marian Tudela, who both spearheaded the accreditation preparation process, led Public School System officials on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon for the Cognia Accreditation exit conference. The school district underwent a four-day district-wide accreditation on Nov. 6-9. Cognia accreditation will release its findings in the next 30 days. Cognia accreditation is a non-profit organization that is considered as the world's leading accrediting firm that accredits over 36,000 schools in 85 countries.

'Going after IPI's obligations is like chasing a butterfly in a huge field'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Palacios

As he describes it, going after what Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC owes the CNMI government and the Commonwealth Casino Commission is like chasing a butterfly in a huge field. "How are we ever [going to] catch up to this?"

See IPI on Page 4

Palacios: Legislative delegations keep circumventing legal budget process

» **Governor enacts House local bill, but line-item vetoes 2 provisions**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Notwithstanding the approved budget for the Legislature, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said that legislative delegations continue to circumvent the legal budget process to pump more operating

See BUDGET on Page 4

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management held a press conference yesterday announcing the upcoming 2023 Konfitma exercise. From left, HSEM spokesperson Bernard Villagomez, HSEM special assistant Franklin Babauta, and Guam National Guard exercise planner Sean Cripps.

Konfitma 2023 begins next week

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic stopped the entire world in its tracks, local and visiting first responders will once again conduct

See KONFITMA on Page 4

Synthetic chemicals found in Isley tank

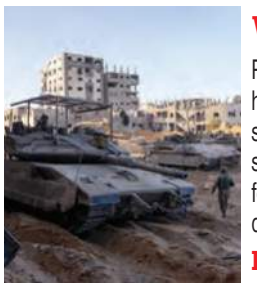
By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has informed the public that the level of synthetic chemicals found in the Isley Reservoir Tank, which supplies water to several villages on the island, has exceeded CUC's maximum

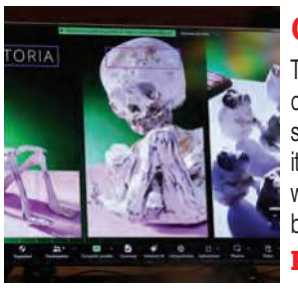
See SYNTHETIC on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Colin Lilles, Geovanni Moses, and Leonardo Vincent were the winners of McDonald's of Saipan's first ever Halloween Kids Costume Contest, which took place at McDonald's Chalan Laulau last Oct. 29.
PAGE 14



WORLD
Palestinians living in the heart of Gaza's largest city said Wednesday they could see and hear Israeli ground forces closing in from multiple directions.
PAGE 16



OFFBEAT
The lower chamber of Mexico's congress once again turned to spectacle Tuesday, devoting hours of its time to a controversial character who pressed the case for "non-human beings" they said were found in Peru.
PAGE 17

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Local

Another guided-missile destroyer arriving on Saipan today

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A guided-missile destroyer in the U.S. Navy, USS *Shoup*, and its crew will be visiting Saipan today, Friday.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios disclosed in an interview yesterday that they are going to welcome 350 Navy personnel at the Saipan Seaport's Charlie Dock this morning, Friday.

"They want to join us. I want to say welcome to the CNMI. I will be down there," Palacios said.

USS *Shoup* is named for Medal of Honor recipient Gen. David M. Shoup, the 22nd commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps. Its homeport is Yokosuka, Japan.

Last July 3, Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang welcomed the captain and crew of the USS *John Finn*, a guided-missile destroyer that made a port call on Saipan.

Palacios stated that they continue to welcome members of U.S. military to Saipan and wants to see more of these visits.

/UOG/

Front row, from left, University of Guam Seated, Society of Emeritus Professors scholarship recipients Shanice Castro, Sophie Nochefranca, Felicity Pereda, Hannah Quichocho, Anniea Saturno, Diana Silang, and Leanelyn Tolentino. Back row, from left, Dr. Lawrence Kasperbauer, SEPRS vice president; Dr. Rebecca Stephenson, professor emerita of Anthropology; Dr. Hiro Kurashina, SEPRS president; Dr. Kathryn Wood, SEPRS secretary; Katrina Perez, executive director, UOG Endowment Foundation; Mark Duarte, director, UOG Financial Aid Office; and Carlos Taitano, director, UOG Global Learning Engagement.

Ex-UOG professors award scholarships to 7 students

The University of Guam Society of Emeritus Professors and Retired Scholars recently awarded scholarships to seven UOG students.

The seven were awarded $1,000 each during a ceremony at the UOG Emeritus Hall on Oct. 20, 2023. They were selected from among 40 students who competed.

The scholarship recipients are:

- Shanice Castro, a sophomore majoring in Psychology;
- Sophie Nochefranca, a sophomore majoring in English;
- Felicity Pereda, a first-year student majoring in Biology, Bio-Med track;
- Hannah Quichocho, a first-year student majoring in Biology, Bio-Med track;
- Anniea Saturno, a senior majoring in Social Work;
- Diana Silang, a first-year student majoring in Accounting; and
- Leanelyn Tolentino, a first-year student majoring in Civil Engineering

The donors are primarily SEPRS members and others who contribute annually or through the SEPRS Scholarship Gala held each year in April.

This is a one-time award over two semesters, but students can apply or re-apply each year.

The scholarship award ceremony was held and organized by the SEPRS Scholarship Committee in collaboration with the UOG Financial Aid Office, the UOG Endowment Foundation and the UOG Global Learning and Engagement. ***(UOG)***

With gratitude for your service to our nation on Veterans Day and always. Thinking of you and thanking you for all you did for our country. Those who live in freedom will always be grateful to those who helped preserve it.
In Celebration of Veterans Day
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

SHS holds successful pet food distribution on Tinian, Rota

One of the major trends in animal sheltering and humane societies nationwide is understanding the reasons behind pet surrenders and providing support to help individuals keep their beloved pets.

As part of this ongoing effort, the Saipan Humane Society is delighted to announce a successful food distribution event to aid pet owners on Tinian and Rota, sponsored by Veterinarians Without Borders.

The event was made possible through the generous support of several organizations and dedicated individuals. The pet food, which proved to be a lifeline for many pet owners, was shipped by the U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia-Sector Guam to Rota and Tinan. The food purchased and preparation was organized by Guam Animals In Need and the Boonie Flight Project on Guam's side.

On Tinian, the event was coordinated by Saipan Cares for Animals Tinian Branch, with special thanks to Miho Evangelista for her invaluable contributions.

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of these organizations, over 100 pet owners were provided with free pet food during the distribution event. This assistance alleviated the financial burden many pet owners face when trying to provide for their furry family members, ensuring that pets and their owners can continue to enjoy their special bond.

Building upon this trend, Saipan Humane Society is now considering the establishment of a pet food pantry to further support the local pet community. Although the pantry is not yet formally established, the organization encourages everyone to keep an eye on their social media channels for updates on when future food distributions will take place.

This initiative exemplifies the power of community and collaboration to make a positive impact on the lives of both pets and their devoted owners. By addressing the needs of pet owners and their animals, we hope to reduce pet surrenders and promote the welfare of pets in our community.

For more information about Saipan Humane Society and their future pet food distribution events, please visit their website at saipanhumanesociety.org or follow them on social media with @saipanhumanesociety. ***(SHS)***

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Woman accused of trying to 'import' meth to Rota

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a $100,000 cash bail on a woman who is being accused of trying to import methamphetamine into Rota.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan retained yesterday the $100,000 cash bail that was initially imposed on Jairee Lynn Q. Mendiola, 33, who is facing charges of importation of contraband, possession of contraband, and trafficking offenses.

Mendiola appeared before Bogdan via video conference as she was at a hospital. Court records did not indicate which hospital and why she was there.

After her hearing, Mendiola was remanded back to Department of Corrections' custody where she will await further court proceedings.

During the hearing, Mendiola was represented by assistant public defender Emily Thomsen while Chief Criminal Prosecutor Chester Hinds represented the government.

According to court documents, the attempt to ship methamphetamine to Rota was discovered during a routine inspection of incoming packages from Guam on Nov. 1.

At around 1:40pm that day, Mendiola approached the Customs and Biosecurity Service office asking to clear her personal cargo. She was escorted to Star Marianas Air's cargo area where she was able to pick up her cargo before she was escorted to the airport's arrival area for inspection.

During the inspection, Mendiola was asked if the cargo, specifically a brown box, belonged to her to, to which she allegedly replied yes.

When CBS officers opened the package, they uncovered a projector and inside, they found green electrical tape wrapping what they described as a round-shaped object.

After unwrapping the object, CBS officers reported that they found a clear plastic with a crystalline substance. It tested presumptive positive for methamphetamine. The substance allegedly weighed about 5.90 gross grams.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

BUDGET

From page 1

expenditures into items that are already funded under the annual budget acts of the fiscal year.

Palacios made the statement in signing into law House Local Law 23-29, S1, which would inject limited appropriations for the personnel and operations of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, Office of the Mayor of Tinian & Aguiguan, the Tinian Municipal Council, and the Tinian Municipal Treasury in fiscal year 2024.

Based on the opinion of the attorney general, the governor line-item vetoed a provision in the bill that proposes a $20,000 appropriation for the Tinian and Aguiguan Delegation for personnel, saying this provision is "constitutionally problematic."

The governor also line-item vetoed the bill's provision for the TALD chair to be the expenditure authority for these funds, citing the same grounds.

With the exception of the vetoed portions, the bill now becomes Tinian Local Law 23-05.

"Notwithstanding the prior approval of similar appropriations, I restate my concern regarding the constitutionality of the appropriation to legislative delegations to fund operational costs," said Palacios in his letter Tuesday to TALD chair Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian) and House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan).

The governor said the Legislature has approved for Tinian and Aguiguan a funding ceiling of $6,791,324 for fiscal year 2024.

He pointed out that each delegation is a component unit of the Commonwealth Legislature and may not incur expenditures beyond that which is already set every fiscal year in the annual budget acts for the Legislature.

He said the Commonwealth Code states, "No expenditures of Commonwealth funds shall be made unless the funds are appropriated in currently effective annual appropriation act or pursuant to a Commonwealth Code."

Palacios cited the Commonwealth Code: "Funds for operations of the Commonwealth shall be appropriated pursuant to annual appropriations acts."

Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian) introduced the local bill last Oct. 5. The TALD passed the bill with some amendments last Oct. 17.

According to the bill, the Office of the Tinian Municipal Treasurer had told the TALD last Sept. 27, 2023, that local revenue for fiscal year 2024 in the amount of $507,750 is available for appropriation.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

KONFITMA

From page 1

the Konfitma exercise starting next week.

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management announced yesterday the resumption of what used to be an annual exercise, saying it will happen this year from Nov. 14 to 15 in several sites: at the Garapan Fishing Base, Marpi, Susupe, and As Lito.

This year's exercises will be focused on responding to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and high yield Explosives.

Aside from local first responders, over 100 representatives from the Guam, Utah, and Texas National Guard are expected to join the exercises.

HSEM spokesperson Bernard Villagomez stated that the public should be aware of this planned event as these exercises could possibly sound alarming.

"We would like to encourage the public not to worry about the increased number of sirens going off and if they see more first responders on the roads. This is a medium-scale exercise to increase the capability of our local first responders," he said.

Homeland Security special assistant Franklin Babauta said that HSEM will post signs to inform the community where the training exercises will be conducted.

"We want to keep the community informed so that they are aware of the exercise. We will also be putting up signs to inform the public about exercise sites," he said.

Sean Cripps, exercise planner for the Guam National Guard, said Konfitma is a joint-training exercise designed to create conditions to exceed the capabilities and capacity of local resources.

"This allows Emergency Management to call resources outside of Saipan, in this case from the Guam National Guard, Utah National Guard, and also the Texas National Guard. These resources will be here on island, conducting exercises for the next week. We appreciate the community's patience and making emergency response here better," he said.

Cripps explained that this exercise has been going on since 2010 and the last one occurred in 2018.

"We can see that this emergency preparedness training has paid dividends for emergency response throughout the CNMI as Saipan has recently experienced [a need] for a lot of emergency response. So this exercise is very important to sustain and improve the capability both here and the coordination with other resources that can come and assist Saipan," he said.

IPI

From page 1

Thus asked Gov. Arnold I. Palacios in an interview yesterday, adding that CCC and IPI already went to the CNMI Superior and U.S. District courts, all the way up to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

"They are taking us on a wild goose chase on this and when is it going to end? We need to end it and move on," said the governor.

IPI recently made an offer to the CCC board to pay $5 million a year for four years to the CNMI government for the casino license fee and $1 million per year for four years to the CCC for its regulatory fee, in exchange for getting back its suspended casino license.

When asked to comment on IPI's offer, Palacios disclosed yesterday that IPI also wrote him about its offer on probably the belief that he has the sole discretion to make a decision on it.

"I don't have [that authority]. We have the CCC that's been handling this case and the attorney general. And it's been in courts," said Palacios as he discussed the background of the court actions between IPI and CCC.

He said the CNMI court decision was for CCC and IPI to sit down and come up with a reasonable settlement payment schedule.

Palacios said the CCC advised or informed him that the CCC submitted to IPI a counteroffer that it first pay $15 million upfront so that the current 2023 casino license fee is paid, and then IPI would have to pay $5 million a year up to 2032.

"And that's the position of the commission," he said.

Palacios said they didn't hear anything back from IPI until very recently when IPI sent him a letter also offering $5 million a year but it's now until 2052 to pay and not 2032.

The governor said he wants to make it clear that it is in the hands of the commission to negotiate that settlement upon the court's instruction.

In his opinion, Palacios believes the annual payment for a casino license fee under the agreement and under the law or the statute is an exclusive license at $15 million.

"That's the law. Even if they want to take a look at different options, the commission is already mandated. They can't change the law," he pointed out.

Only the Legislature can change the law, Palacios said, and they cannot make the law retroactive.

Palacios also disclosed that he was just informed that IPI has already hired another lawyer from the U.S. mainland to appeal the Ninth Circuit's decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The governor said he will listen to what the AG and the CCC will say as they're the body created to look at all these issues and make recommendation or a decision.

"I cannot unilaterally make that decision. It is not the governor's decision," he said.

Palacios believes that if IPI is serious about its intentions, it should just make the current payment for the annual license fee if they want to operate again.

The other global negotiations on a settlement have to be hammered out with the commission later, he added.

ERRATUM

In the article "Monika's Treasures opens in Garapan" last Nov. 9, *Saipan Tribune* inadvertently named Sandy Weaver as Sandy Fleming. Our apologies.

SYNTHETIC

From page 1

contaminant levels.

In a public notice issued Monday, CUC said the high level of synthetic chemicals found in the Isley Tank Service affects its water customers Chalan Kanoa, San Antonio, Afetnas, portions of Koblerville, As Perdido, As Gonno, Susupe, San Jose, Oleai, and portions of Chalan Lau Lau Beach Road.

The notice of high contaminant levels remains in effect indefinitely.

It remains unknown how many customers are affected by this notice, but CUC's Saipan water customers typically do not drink tap water, but uses it for dishwashing, showering, and laundry, among other external uses.

CUC explained in its notice that the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality enacted a new regulation that established a maximum contaminant level or MCL for a class of constituents called Per– and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, or PFAS.

PFAS encompasses a large group of synthetic chemicals. Scientific research suggests that exposure to high levels of certain PFAS may lead to adverse health outcomes. However, research about PFAS exposure, both in high and low levels, remain underway.

Pursuant to this new regulation, water suppliers like CUC must measure the concentration of these substances one each quarter.

"The routine quarterly sample of July 23 from Isley Reservoir Tank Service area entry point that served the affected area noted above exceeded the MCL. The CUC collected additional samples from Isley Reservoir on Sept. 6 and 27 which also indicated MCL for PFAS was exceeded," said CUC.

Fortunately, this is not an emergency, CUC said.

"PFAS are a large, complex group of synthetic chemicals that have been used in consumer products around the world since the 1950s. They are ingredients in various everyday products like food packaging, clothes and carpets, and firefighting foam," said CUC.

To bring down the levels of PFAS in its water supply, CUC has installed Granular Activated Carbon, or GAC, treatment units that are used to decrease PFAS concentrations below the MCL.

"Twenty vessels at 10 wells had the GAC changed out by Aug. 7, 2023. Two larger GAC units will be installed by the end of this year to provide additional treatment. CUC staff have completed the rehabilitation of a large producing well with high quality water on Sept. 18, 2025. CUC also plans to take two wells offline that have been identified as having higher PFAS concentrations," said CUC.

CUC staff will also continue to monitor by sampling the Isley Reservoir Tank Service Area Entry Point to ensure the steps being taken reduce PFAS concentrations to below the MCL.

"CUC will provide an update to this public notice when the additional sample results are available from our laboratory," said CUC.

CUC is encouraging individuals concerned about the high level of PFAS, and consumers in sensitive subgroups like pregnant and nursing women to use bottled water for drinking and cooking instead of these waters.

CUC adds that it is, however, still safe to shower and bathe using this water.

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MVA joins JATA Tourism EXPO 2023 and hosts Marianas Seminar

MVA

The Marianas delegation, led by Marianas Visitors Authority board chairwoman Gloria Cavanagh, second left, attends the JATA Tourism Expo 2023 on Oct. 26-29, 2023, in Osaka, Japan. From left, MVA board member Sachiko Gerrard, Cavanagh, MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres, MVA Japan in-country manager Takashi Ichikura, United Airlines sales marketing manager for Japan & Micronesia Maki Matsui, Sen. Corina Magofna (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Joel Camacho (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Marisa Flores (Ind-Saipan), MVA board member Jamika Taijeron, and Sen. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota).

MVA

Members of the public queue at the Marianas promotion booth during JATA Tourism Expo 2023 on Oct. 26-29, 2023, in Osaka, Japan. The Marianas Visitors Authority joined exhibitors from around world at the expo, which attracted nearly 150,000 attendees.

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The Marianas Visitors Authority joined representatives of other international countries and regions, businesses, and organizations at JATA Tourism EXPO 2023 on Oct. 26-29, 2023, in Osaka, Japan. A Marianas Seminar for travel trade and media representatives was also held in Osaka on Oct. 30.

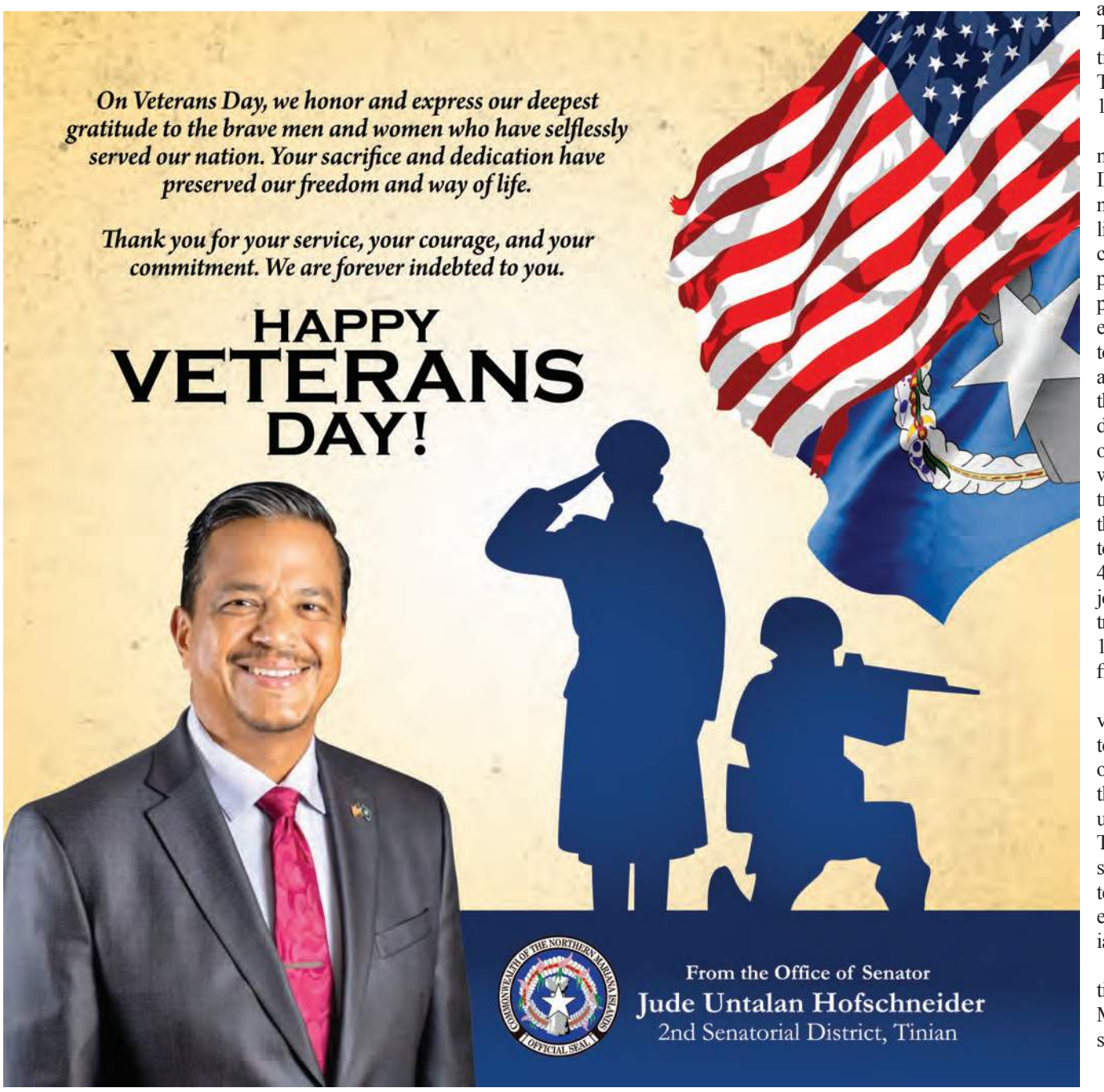
JATA Tourism EXPO is organized annually by Japan Travel & Tourism Association, Japan Association of Travel Agents, and Japan National Tourism Organization. This year's expo attracted 148,050 attendees.

The expo was held at International Exhibition Center, or INTEX Osaka, and included national tourism agencies, airlines, hotels, travel agencies, cruise companies, other tourism professionals and the traveling public. The MVA joined other exhibitors in providing the latest tourism information to visitors and professional members of the travel trade. The first two days of the expo were focused on B2B appointments and walk-in meetings with travel trade and media partners, while the last two days were open to the public. This year, over 49,000 tourism professionals joined the event on the travel trade days, while an estimated 100,000 consumers joined the final days of the event.

"JATA Tourism Expo provides the Marianas the means to promote ourselves at one of the largest travel events in the world," said MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres. "Overall, it was a big success, with nearly 4,500 attendees stopping to actively engage in activities at the Marianas promotional booth."

The MVA shared information and collaterals about the Marianas and its tourism resources. In addition, visitors

See MVA on Page 7


On Veterans Day, we honor and express our deepest gratitude to the brave men and women who have selflessly served our nation. Your sacrifice and dedication have preserved our freedom and way of life.
Thank you for your service, your courage, and your commitment. We are forever indebted to you.
HAPPY VETERANS DAY!
From the Office of Senator
Jude Untalan Hofschneider
2nd Senatorial District, Tinian

MVA

From page 6

to the booth participated in indigenous "mwar" (floral head lei), beads-making and coconut leaves weaving, a quiz show, a raffle, and viewing of videos about Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands.

JATA Tourism EXPO provides opportunities for travel professionals to exchange travel information and conduct effective business meetings, while inspiring consumers to travel.

The MVA also had 19 interviews with on- and offline media: *Joshi Tabi Press, Tabi Muse, Trip Editor, Golf Digest, LOVE TABI, Marine Diving Web,* J-WAVE radio*, Asahi Newspaper, Yomiuri Newspaper, Tabippo, Asahi* Broadcast Company, Yomiuri TV, ABC Libra, Nouveau, TV Osaka, Traicy, Wing Travel, YouTuber Daki Yamamoto, and social influencer SAO.

"Media interviews are a very important part of our participation in JATA Tourism Expo," said Torres. "For example, in their 10-minute program about the expo, ABC TV in Osaka recommended the Marianas for year-end and new travel, making note of our phenomenal golf and diving and citing the Marianas as more reasonably priced than our other U.S. island competitors."

Joining the Marianas delegation were Sens. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Corina Magofna (Ind-Saipan); and Reps. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), Marissa Flores (Ind-Saipan), and Joel Camacho (Ind-Saipan).

The MVA also hosted a Marianas Seminar on Oct. 30 for in-depth information exchange and partnership-building with travel trade and media representatives in the Osaka and Kansai region. The seminar was attended by representatives of 23 travel agencies and five airlines.

Attendees represented the U.S. Consulate General Osaka-Kobe, Asiana Air Lines, Akari Travel, Daybreak Co, Tobu Top Tours Co., TravelPlan International, Travel Gallery, World Express, H.I.S., T.P. Micronesia, Harbor Travel Co., Nice Tour, ARC Three International Co., S World Tour Co., Japan Association of Travel Agents, Happy World Inc., Nippon Travel Agency Co., J World Travel Co., Hankyu Travel, Wing Aviation Press Co, Ohshu Express Limited, TPI, TABIKOBO, United Airlines, and T'way.

United Airlines flies to Saipan in the Marianas three times a week from Tokyo. ***(MVA)***

MVA
The Marianas delegation, led by Marianas Visitors Authority board chairwoman Gloria Cavanagh, seated third from left, promote the destination to travel agents, airlines, and media at the Marianas Seminar on Oct. 30, 2023, in Osaka, Japan.

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MVA

Tanapag Middle School performs at the 18th Annual Christmas in the Marianas on Dec. 10, 2022, on Saipan. This year, the annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority will be held on Dec. 2, 9, 16, and 30, 2023, at T Galleria in Garapan, Saipan.

Christmas in the Marianas throughout December

The Marianas Visitors Authority, in collaboration with PDM Promoters and DFS Saipan, will host the 19th Annual Christmas in the Marianas signature event for visitors and the community throughout the month of December 2023.

This year's celebration will gather revelers from 5pm to 9pm on four Saturdays: Dec. 2, 9, 16, and 30. Twenty-three public and private schools have signed up to share their holiday spirit with Christmas caroling, skits, and costumes. T Galleria in downtown Garapan will be the site of this festivities, which will include food and drink sales. A display of Christmas trees featuring natural and recycled decorations made by schoolchildren will be staged for the public to enjoy in Garapan.

"We are so excited to be ending 2023 with Christmas in the Marianas in full force," said MVA Community Projects director Martin Duenas. "We are especially grateful to DFS Saipan for partnering with us to host this year's celebration at T Galleria for the first time. We encourage everyone to mark their calendars for these four Saturday evenings in December for a great time together as a community with our visitors."

Participating schools are William S. Reyes Elementary School, Hopwood Middle School, Grace Christian Academy, Golden Harvest International School, Chacha Ocean View Middle School, Green Meadow School, Tanapag Middle School, Saipan International School, Garapan Elementary School, Dandan Middle School, Northern Mariana International School, Agape Christian School, San Vicente Elementary School, Kagman Elementary School, Brilliant Star School, Mount Carmel School, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary, Oleai Elementary School, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, Saipan Southern High School, Marianas High School, Saipan Community School, and Koblerville Elementary School.

Festivities will kick off with a countdown to the lighting of the Christmas Trees on Dec. 2 from 5:45pm to 6pm. Prizes will be awarded at the end of the month to the top schools in various contests.

This event is sponsored by Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

For more information, contact lead event coordinator and MVA Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda at jaranda@mymarianas.com or 664-3200/1 or visit the Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

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Triple J donates $5K for Red Cross' fundraising dinner

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Triple J Enterprises executives present a $5,000 check to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter in support of its fundraising dinner.

The Triple J Enterprises group of companies has made a generous $5,000 donation to support the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's upcoming fundraising dinner.

The NMI Chapter said the donation will be used locally to support its disaster preparedness, response and recovery efforts.

"Triple J has been a major supporter of the Red Cross here in the NMI and throughout Micronesia for many years. Our lifesaving work and humanitarian relief efforts could not be possible without the generosity of Triple J" said John Hirsh, executive director of the NMI Chapter.

The Red Cross will host a 1980's themed dinner on Nov. 18 at Kensington Hotel Saipan. The evening will feature dinner, drinks, live entertainment, door prizes and costume contest.

For more information about the Red Cross and how you can help, visit www.redcross.org/nmi or the dinner event page at www.redcross.org/nmigala. ***(PR)***

SIS student awarded with honors from College Board

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan International School student Serin Chung has earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Programs.

Saipan International School student Serin Chung has earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Programs.

These programs celebrate students' hard work in high school and showcase their strong academic performance. The academic honors for rural area, Black, Indigenous, and/or Latino students are an opportunity for students to share their strong academic achievements with colleges and scholarship programs that are seeking to recruit diverse talent.

» Awards recognize high-performing students and help them stand out to colleges

"We're thrilled to celebrate our students and recognize them for the great work they've been doing. We're proud of their strong academic performance in the classroom and on College Board assessments like the PSAT/NMSQT, PSA 10, and AP exams," said SIS headmaster Dr. Ron Snyder. "There's so much that makes our students unique, and receiving this honor reinforces this as an asset for their future."

The criteria for eligible students include:

- GPA of 3.5 or higher.
- PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10 assessment scores that are within the top 10% of assessment takers in each state for each award program or earned a score of 3 or higher on 2 or more AP Exams in 9th and 10th grade.
- Attend school in a rural area or small town, or identify as African American/Black, Hispanic American/Latino, or Indigenous/Native.

Eligible students are invited to apply on BigFuture during their sophomore or junior year and are awarded at the start of the next school year in time to share their achievements in high school as they plan for the future. At the same time, colleges and organizations using College Board's Student Search Service can connect directly with awardees during the recruitment process.

"It's becoming increasingly hard for students to be 'seen' during the college recruitment process. We're exceptionally proud of the National Recognition Programs for celebrating students who are at times overlooked but have shown their outstanding academic abilities," said Tarlin Ray, senior vice president of BigFuture at College Board. "This is a benefit not only for students but also for colleges and universities committed to recruiting diverse and talented students."

SIS is a private, K-12 university preparatory school, serving a very diverse student body. ***(PR)***

Tinian small businesses invited to seminar on fed government's contracting process

Small business owners on Tinian who are interested in learning more about the federal government contracting procedures are invited to attend a business seminar on Friday, Nov. 17, 2023, by the Tinian Small Business Development Center at the Northern Marianas College.

Mendiola-Long

The seminar, which is offered at no-cost to participants, will be conducted by Philip Mendiola-Long, chief executive officer and managing director of Sherman Consulting, LLC, will equip local entrepreneurs with the knowledge and foresight to gear up for the impending wealth of opportunities the Department of Defense projects will bring to the island.

Sherman Consulting, LLC is the leading consulting firm in the Asia-Pacific region that assists U.S. and foreign firms pursue contracting opportunities in Guam and the Mariana Islands. The firm provides extensive and comprehensive services for firms seeking to be involved in the vast opportunities related to infrastructure upgrades in Guam and the Marianas.

This seminar will help small businesses understand the intricacies of the government contracting process, enabling them to compete effectively in the government contracting arena. Additionally, this seminar will address the multitude of personnel needs both inside and outside military facilities.

Both current and aspiring small business owners are invited to attend. This business seminar is an excellent opportunity for Tinian-based small businesses looking to expand their horizons and diversify their revenue streams. By participating in this program, entrepreneurs can gain a competitive edge in the government contracting sector.

The training will be held in Room D of NMC's Tinian Campus from 9:30am to 11:30am. Interested participants can register at this link: https://marianas.ecenterdirect.com/events/1019136

"The Tinian Small Business Development Center underscores the critical impact of government contracts in catalyzing economic growth and creating avenues for the prosperity of small enterprises. This seminar goes beyond exploring the anticipated build-up's business prospects; it delves into addressing broader community needs. We extend a warm invitation to all those keen on discovering upcoming business opportunities to participate in this invaluable information session," said Tinian SBDC director Benjamin Huk Borja,.

For more information, contact Borja at (670) 237-9211 or email benjamin.borja@marianas.edu. Assistance is also provided by the Lead Center at (670) 237-6888 or email administrative office manager Charmaine Hofschneider at charmaine.hofschneider@marianas.edu. ***(SBDC)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 224

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Democrats fret as the bad news mounts for Biden

A week is an eternity in politics, let alone a year. Yet that hasn't stopped Democrats from entering panic mode over a new poll showing widespread voter dissatisfaction with President Joe Biden.

The New York Times on Sunday revealed the results of a survey it conducted with Siena College of six battleground states—including Nevada—in the 2024 presidential election. The numbers were stunning, to say the least.

The findings show Biden losing to Donald Trump in five of the states—Michigan, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Arizona and Nevada—by at least four points. The president faces a 10-point deficit in Nevada. In Wisconsin, Biden led Trump by 2 points.

Biden carried all six states in 2020.

Of particular note, the survey found that "the multiracial and multigenerational coalition that elected Mr. Biden is fraying," according to the Times. "Demographic groups that backed Biden by landslide margins in 2020 are now far more closely contested, as two-thirds of the electorate sees the country moving in the wrong direction."

In fact, the "more diverse the swing state, the farther Mr. Biden was behind, and he led only in the whitest of the six."

Trump has huge negatives and remains unliked among a significant portion of the electorate. But Biden, the poll showed, is also "deeply—and similarly—unpopular."

The explanation for this appears to be rooted primarily in the James Carville adage, "It's the economy, stupid." Voters across all income levels, the survey found, "felt that Mr. Biden's policies had hurt them personally, while they credited Mr. Trump's policies for helping them." By a 59-37 margin, voters trusted Trump as a better steward of the economy than Biden.

The president's age—he turns 81 this month—is also a major concern. Seventy-one percent of respondents said Biden was too old to be an effective leader, "an opinion shared across every demographic and geographic group in the poll."

There's plenty of time for the president to make up ground, of course. Democrats bucked similar doomsday predictions in the 2022 midterms and did better than expected, in large part thanks to their emphasis on abortion. Perhaps a similar scenario plays out in the coming year.

Yet the game plan guiding Democrats over the past two years has been that a visibly declining president who presided over 9 percent inflation, $5 a gallon gasoline, an explosion in the national debt and chaos on the border would waltz to re-election as long as the GOP nominee was the baggage-laden Trump. As the Times poll reveals, that strategy could be more wishful thinking than political reality.

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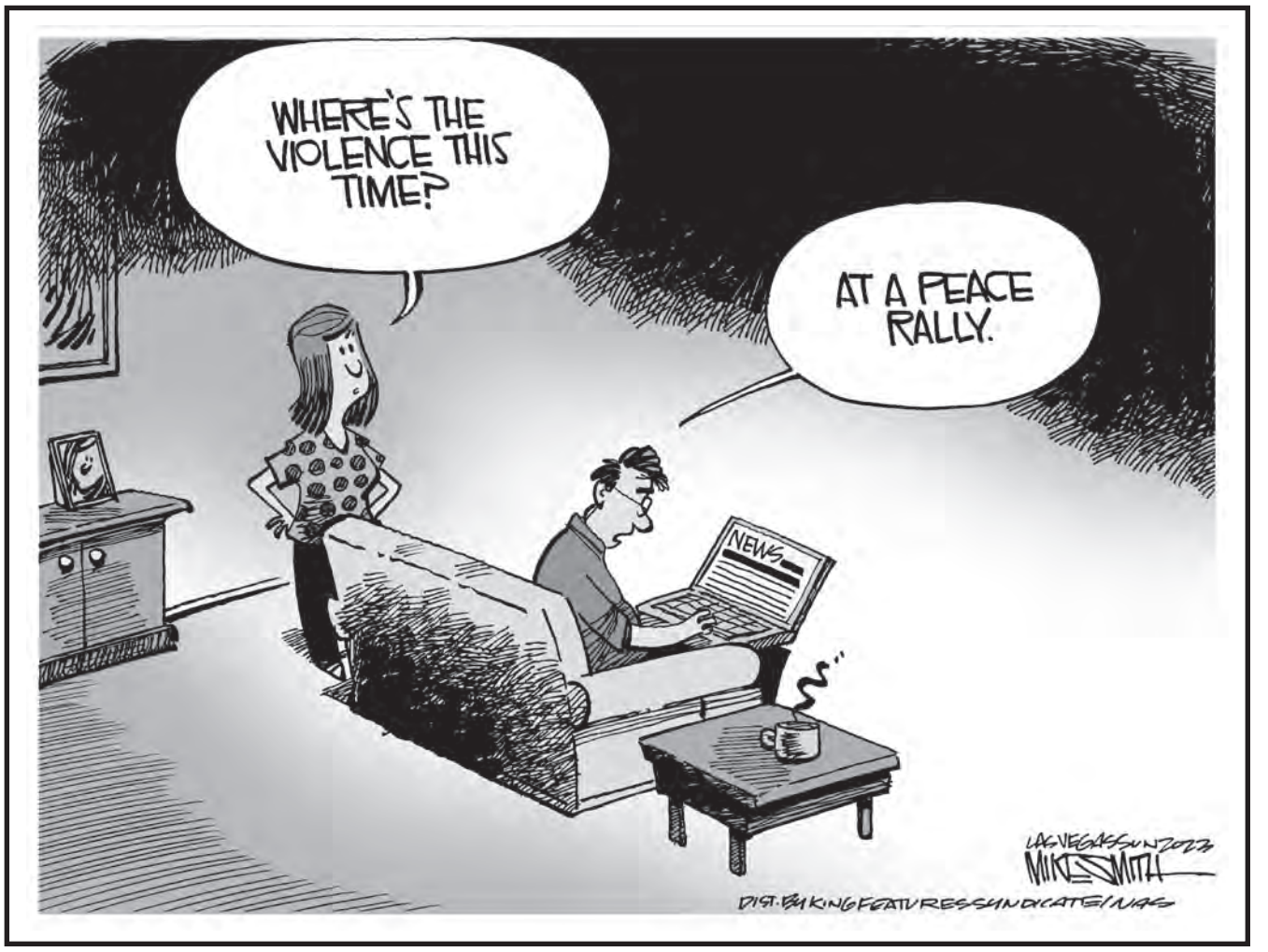

No, Gazans can't rise up against Hamas

"They could have risen up, they could have fought against that evil regime which took over Gaza in a coup d'état." Israeli President Isaac Herzog ought to know better than to have said that. But those who don't—those who had no call to pay attention to Palestinian politics until a month ago—might be forgiven for asking why Hamas has never faced a serious uprising from within their Gazan redoubt in the 17 years it has ruled the strip.

That it has not allows some, in Israel and elsewhere, to suggest that the majority of the 2.3 million Palestinians who are confined to the 139 square miles of Gaza must approve of the terrorist group's actions, including the horrific attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7. To follow this line of reasoning is to conclude that all Gazans are complicit in terror. "It's an entire nation out there that is responsible," Herzog told reporters a few days after the attack. "This rhetoric about civilians not aware, not involved, it's absolutely not true.

And Herzog, remember, is from the liberal side of the Israeli political establishment: A former head of the Labor Party, he unsuccessfully ran against the right-wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the 2015 parliamentary elections. In 2021, he was elected to the largely ceremonial presidency, a role that requires him to act as Israel's moral north star.

Those unburdened by such responsibility and hewing to the opposite end of the political spectrum have gone much farther than Herzog in placing collective blame for Hamas's crimes on all Gazans—and proposing collective punishment. In the most extreme instance of this absurd syllogism, Heritage Minister Amichai Eliyahu implied that dropping an atom bomb on the strip was an option.

So, why haven't Gazans risen up against Hamas? Before I address that question, please permit a short detour to explain how Hamas came to rule the strip.

The group won the last election to be held in Gaza and the West Bank, in 2006. Back then, Hamas was identified mainly as a radical offshoot of the Islamist, pan-Arab Muslim Brotherhood political movement, but its main attraction to voters was as an alternative to Fatah, the faction running the Palestinian Authority—the deeply corrupt and inept government responsible for the West Bank and Gaza. Hamas's election campaign leaned heavily on the corruption issue, which resonated with voters.

The prospect of Islamists running the PA alarmed Israel as well as the US. But Fatah contested the results, and the two groups fought pitched battles. When the dust settled in 2007, Fatah was left in control of the PA, but its remit was restricted to the West Bank. Hamas was supreme in Gaza.

Hamas didn't take long to prove it was as venal and incompetent as Fatah, with its unstinting opposition to Israel its only source of legitimacy. Its goal, stated in a revised charter issued in 2017, was the destruction of the state of Israel. Armed and trained by Iran, its fighters periodically clashed with the Israel Defense Forces, bringing devastation upon Gaza.

In the meantime, Hamas cemented its control by systematically eliminating all opposition. It maintains a network of spies, informers and enforcers and exercises a monopoly of violence. Human rights groups like Amnesty International raised alarms about a "brutal campaign of abductions, torture and unlawful killings" against Palestinians. Invariably, the victims were blamed for being in cahoots with Israel.

With Gaza essentially sealed off from the wider world by Israeli restrictions on travel and trade, Hamas also took control of the economy as the principal employer and paymaster of Palestinians. It decides how foreign aid is doled out, and its leaders siphon out large sums into an international portfolio of investments. Meanwhile, it cracks down on Gazans complaining about economic hardship.

Ismail Haniyeh, who heads the group's political bureau, claims Hamas's actions represent Gazans. But after 17 years of Hamas rule, Gazans have few political rights or civil liberties. The vast majority are too young to have participated in the 2006 election, and none have had a chance to vote Hamas out.

Given the chance, would they? We can only know for certain when—or if—a free and fair election is allowed. To the extent that poll opinions in a populace that lives in fear are possible, there's some evidence that Gazans would like Hamas gone. A recent survey by the Washington Institute showed a large majority want the PA to rule Gaza. This result is doubly remarkable given that the Fatah leadership has only gone from bad to worse since it last had any authority over Gaza.

But to expect Gazans to rise up against Hamas is to require them to risk their lives and livelihoods, to face down a terrorist group that has repeatedly demonstrated willingness to slaughter Palestinians as well as Israelis. And while Hamas can rely on a regional power, Iran, to supply it with arms, all Gazans can expect from the wider world is qualified sympathy—and unreasonable expectations.

By BOBBY GHOSH
Bloomberg Opinion

Bobby Ghosh is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering culture. Previously, he covered foreign affairs.*

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Where are the responsible people when our politics needs them the most?

By ANDREW EASTMOND
Chicago Tribune

Andrew Eastmond is a member of the American Enterprise Institute Leadership Network and a Riverwoods, Illinois, village trustee.

In recent weeks voters watched House Republican conference members shout down a press question about House Speaker Mike Johnson's efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election. They saw protesters calling for a cease-fire in Gaza repeatedly interrupt Secretary of State Antony Blinken's testimony during a Senate hearing. They might be forgiven for asking the question, where are the responsible people when our politics needs them the most?

This question was a theme of German pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer's writings during his opposition to Adolf Hitler's Nazi Party and is a focus of former U.S. Rep. Adam Kinzinger's new book about his time as a public servant. According to Bonhoeffer, true responsibility is a manifestation of selflessness, which arises from being a "deputy" who acts on behalf of others. It involves "what is necessary at the given place and with a due consideration of reality." Responsible people are people who stand for truth and serve others even when it is not in their immediate best interests or may be contrary to prevailing popular opinion.

This sense of duty caused Bonhoeffer to participate in a failed plot to kill Hitler, costing him his life. It impelled Kinzinger to participate in the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol despite being a Republican. As Kinzinger stated during the proceedings, "I remember making a commitment, out loud a few times and in my heart repeatedly even to today, that if we are going to ask Americans to be willing to die in service to our country, we as leaders must at least be willing to sacrifice our political careers when integrity and our oath requires it. After all, losing a job is nothing compared to losing your life."

Like Bonhoeffer's emphasis on building Christian community, responsible political leaders are unifying consensus builders who foster civic compassion and form the broadest possible coalition, a "reasonable majority," to address pressing problems. As author Alexandra Hudson has noted, these leaders also need a disposition of civility, which is "an outgrowth of seeing people as they really are: as beings with irreducible moral worth and deserving of respect. This is worthy for its own sake, even if it means we don't gain the upper hand in every (political) dealing."

While our country's list of policy challenges is long, responsible leaders must engage the reasonable majority in addressing four main issues that are critical to our life together over the upcoming year. Safeguarding democracy and the rule of law is paramount. We need to elect leaders who commit to working within our long-standing constitutional system, while reinforcing respect and understanding of it, rather than focus on destroying the system to seek retribution for perceived grievances.

Responsible leaders also realize that the United States has an indispensable role in protecting other democracies abroad and in safeguarding basic human rights throughout the world. Whether supporting the Ukrainian people and government's struggle to protect their homeland from Vladimir Putin's aggression or ensuring that the laws of war are respected to protect the citizens of Gaza when Israel rightfully destroys Hamas for its recent barbaric terrorist attacks, the world looks to the positive example set by the United States.

As part of protecting human rights and enhancing our future workforce, we need to improve pathways for legal immigration and fix our broken asylum system (e.g., hire more immigration judges to dramatically improve case processing times), while properly targeting our foreign aid programs to address the root causes of our immigration challenges—violence, lack of economic opportunity and extreme poverty. For migrants continuing to arrive in cities like Chicago, we need to support efforts to quickly approve work permits so that they can fill jobs in areas like hospitality where there are unfilled opportunities. Government should work with other areas of civil society, including religious institutions, to efficiently provide for basic needs such as coats, food and shelter while, importantly, reminding citizens of their duty to love these migrants as they would themselves.

Finally, responsible leaders need to heed the reasonable majority's demand for nationwide, sensible solutions to gun violence. According to an April 2023 Fox News poll, 87% of voters surveyed said they support requiring criminal background checks on all gun buyers. Strong majorities support raising the legal age to buy guns to 21 (81%) and requiring mental health checks on gun buyers (80%). Eighty percent of voters say police should be allowed to remove guns from people considered a danger to themselves or others.

How can concerned citizens ensure that our country rewards responsible leaders and puts in place structures allowing these leaders to win elections (e.g., ranked choice voting and nonpartisan primaries)? You can join groups such as Kinzinger's Country First and Heath Mayo's Principles First, which are open to Democrats, Independents and Republicans committed to putting country over party and building on our long-standing shared civic ideals.

As Kinzinger explains, the answer to angry partisans isn't more anger, "but an upwelling of goodness. We must form small groups that affiliate with other small groups until they become part of a national movement that will not be ignored. This cannot be done in anger, and it cannot include a rejection of those with other views."

Rise in infant mortality shows US needs to take better care of moms

By LISA JARVIS
Bloomberg Opinion

Lisa Jarvis is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering biotech, health care and the pharmaceutical industry. Previously, she was executive editor of* Chemical & Engineering News.

New provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offer a horrible statistic: The infant death rate in the U.S. rose by 3% in 2022 to 5.6 deaths per 1,000 live births, the first significant increase in about 20 years.

It's too soon to know if this is the start of a terrible trend or one bad year. Public health researchers will need time and more granular data to unravel the factors contributing to the rise in infant deaths.

Nonetheless, the data reflect hard truths about the state of infant and maternal health care in the U.S.—and there are reasons to worry the situation could worsen. We should consider even one year's reversal in infant deaths, a rate already exceeding that of the country's economic peers, as a sign that more should be done to improve the prospects for moms and babies in the U.S.

Marie Thoma studies reproductive and maternal and infant health at the University of Maryland School of Public Health. When she saw the data, "my stomach just dropped," she says.

The CDC pointed out a few specific areas of concern: The increase in deaths was most pronounced in babies born to Alaska Native and American Indian women, as well as White women and in births that were preterm (less than 37 weeks' gestation) and early preterm (less than 34 weeks). Moreover, more deaths were due to maternal complications and bacterial sepsis.

The question is whether this is a one-year blip or part of a more concerning shift. Public health experts stress that there's not enough information yet to draw conclusions about why more babies died last year. But they also stress that we can't talk about infant deaths without talking about the ongoing crisis in maternal health. Moms and babies are a package deal, and the failures on one reflect failures for the other.

And it's fair to say that "the pressures on reproductive health are stacking up," which could have consequences for infant health in the coming years, says Laurie C. Zephyrin, senior vice president for Advancing Health Equity at the Commonwealth Fund. Those pressures include increasingly limited access to abortion care services, rising rates of maternal mortality and morbidity, growing swaths of the country that lack maternal care, and lack of insurance coverage.

Maternal deaths in the U.S. more than doubled between 1999 and 2019, with American Indian and Alaska Native and Black women faring much worse than other groups. The numbers further deteriorated during the early part of the pandemic, and while provisional CDC data suggest an improvement in 2022 and 2023, they still remain significantly higher than before Covid hit.

Those unconscionable statistics have forced some policy changes that could benefit moms and, by extension, babies. States, for example, seem to recognize that taking care of mom is critical for taking care of baby. Already 38 states and Washington, DC, have extended the time that women are covered by Medicaid after birth from six weeks to a full year, and seven more states plan to do so, according to KFF. Given about 40% of births in the U.S. are covered by Medicaid, the hope is that lengthier insurance coverage, which first became available in April 2022, can help move the needle on maternal mortality and morbidity.

But the counterweight to that good news is that some 10 million people and counting, including some 1.8 million children (including infants), have been dropped from Medicaid as pandemic-era rules guaranteeing continuous coverage unwind. There's a reasonable fear that infant and maternal mortality rates could worsen if people aren't getting appropriate care, whether that's before, during or after a pregnancy.

It's also tempting to draw a line from newly implemented abortion bans to infant deaths. After all, three of the four states with the most significant increases in the death rate (Georgia, Missouri and Texas) had the most restrictive laws either leading into or immediately following the mid-2022 dissolution of Dobbs.

And while one recent study suggests bans could lead to a rise in infant deaths, it's too soon to tell if that will be broadly true. Among the fears is that women will be forced to carry out pregnancies that aren't viable due to severe genetic or other birth defects. An analysis by CNN found that such deaths rose by 21% in Texas following severe restrictions on abortion.

States with bans already had the worst infant and maternal mortality rates, and giving birth there could get riskier: a Commonwealth Fund analysis found that states with abortion restrictions have a higher proportion of so-called "maternity care deserts," or counties lacking obstetric providers and hospitals offering obstetric care—a disparity that could widen as some OB-GYNs choose to leave states with strict bans.

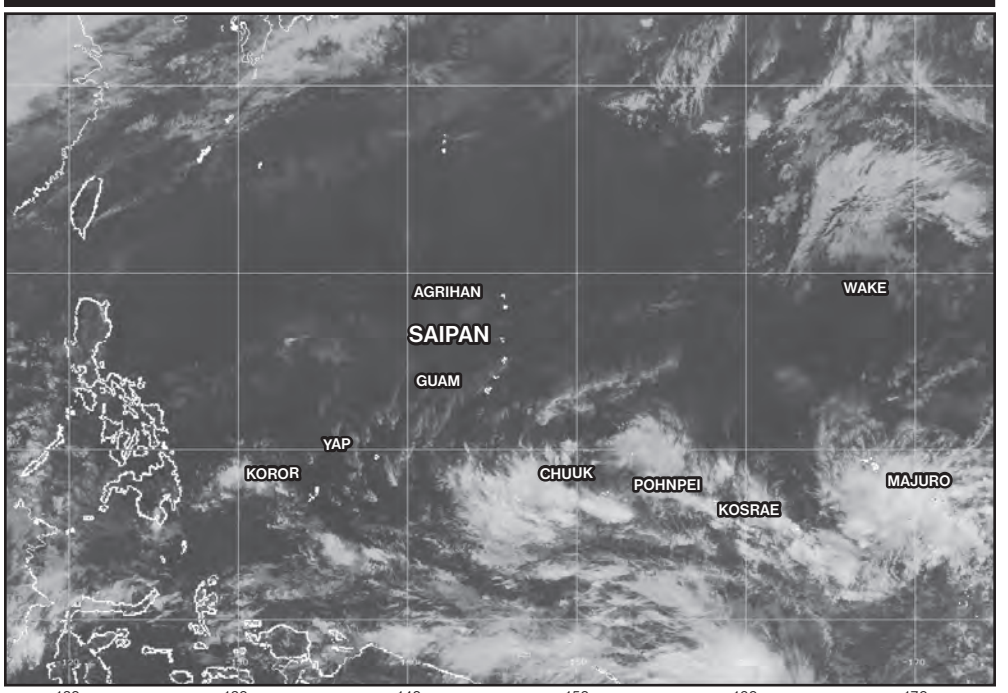
Researchers undoubtedly will spend the coming months picking apart what happened in 2022 to understand how to prevent infant mortality in the U.S. from worsening. But there are already many emerging forces working against maternal and infant health. The key question is whether policy to improve obstetric care can keep up with policy that undercuts it.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of showers.
88 / 79°	88 / 79°	87 / 78°	87 / 78°	87 / 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:24 AM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters this morning. The buoys reveal swells from the northeast and the east-southeast, with combined seas of 5 to 7 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Friday	6:16 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:16 AM	5:45 PM
Sunday	6:17 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:17 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:17 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Friday	3:23 AM	3:38 PM	-
Saturday	4:10 AM	4:13 PM	-
Sunday	4:59 AM	4:50 PM	-
Monday	5:52 AM	5:31 PM	-
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:18 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	64° / 63°
Beijing	Sunny	55° / 32°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	82° / 72°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 74°
London	Partly Cloudy	54° / 45°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	68° / 57°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Showers	59° / 45°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	81° / 72°
New York	Partly Cloudy	69° / 61°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	68° / 55°
Paris	Cloudy	61° / 46°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	70° / 45°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	68° / 52°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	77° / 55°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	61° / 52°
Seoul	Showers	64° / 48°
Tokyo	Showers	64° / 55°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	74° / 57°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:46 AM	High Tide	1.42
11:30 AM	Low Tide	0.56
5:41 PM	High Tide	1.74
-	-	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	7:50PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:40AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	2:15AM	6:10AM	Daily
7C3403	4:40AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA189	00:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	00:40AM	8:45AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:15PM	3:30PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	7:45PM	1:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:15PM	3:35AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

System routine maintenance for Nighthawk customers

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been informed by its electric meter provider, Nighthawk, that the head-end system software will be undergoing routine maintenance on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023, from 2am to 9am.

Nighthawk customers who wish to reconnect their electric services are advised to add funds to their PayGo account to restore electric services before the system goes offline for maintenance.

The system will be unavailable during this period. Nighthawk customers who are currently connected will not be affected by this interruption.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as we continue to provide reliable service to our customers. ***(CUC)***

GCC board of trustees meeting on Nov. 14

The Guam Community College board of trustees will hold its monthly board meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023, at 12pm at Guam Community College in Room 112, Learning Resource Center (GCC Library), Building 4000.

All attendees are encouraged to wear a mask on the GCC campus.

Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services should contact, (671)735-5641 Ext. 5594/5597. ***(GCC)***

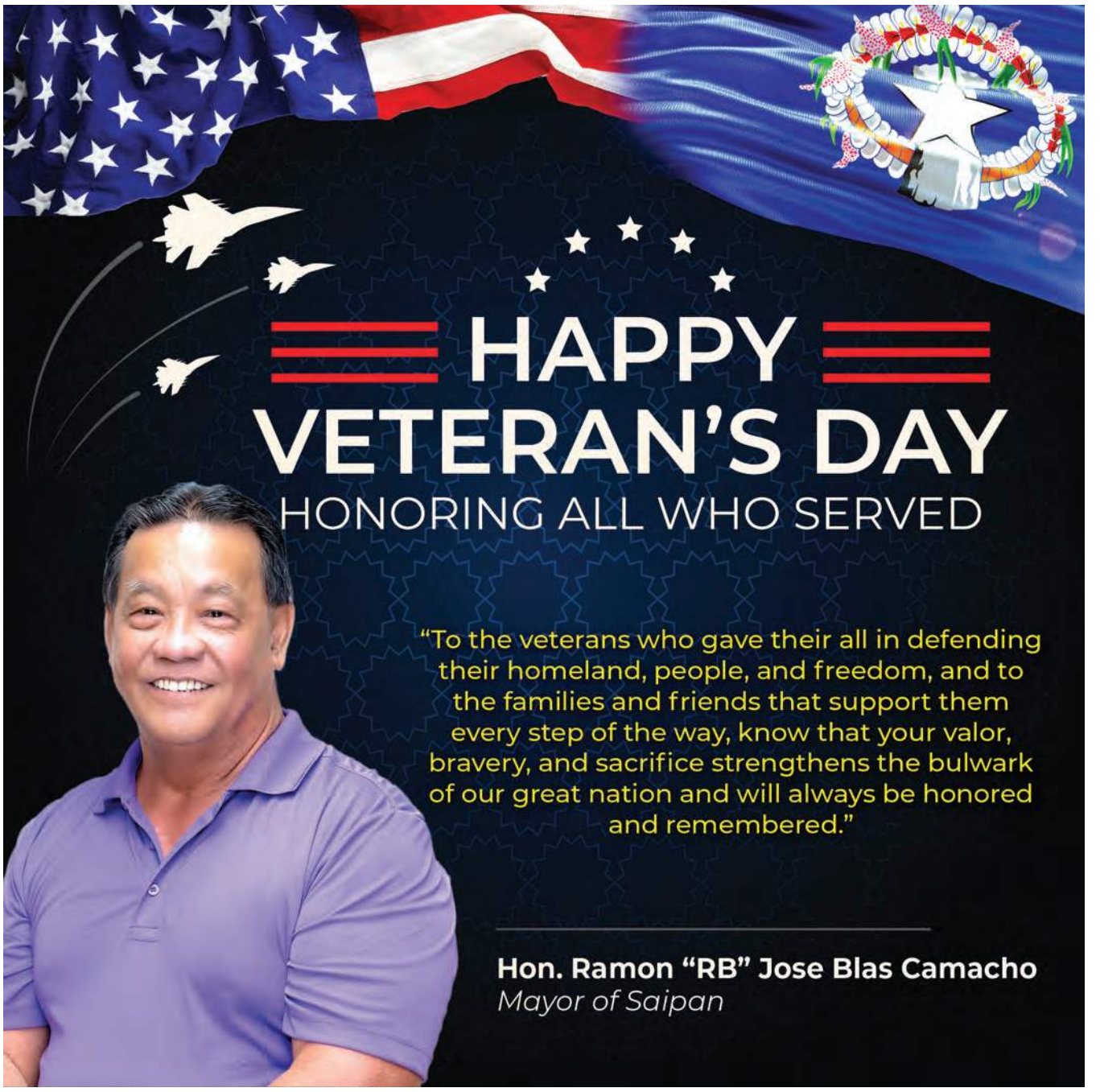
Åmut Walk set to be held on Rota

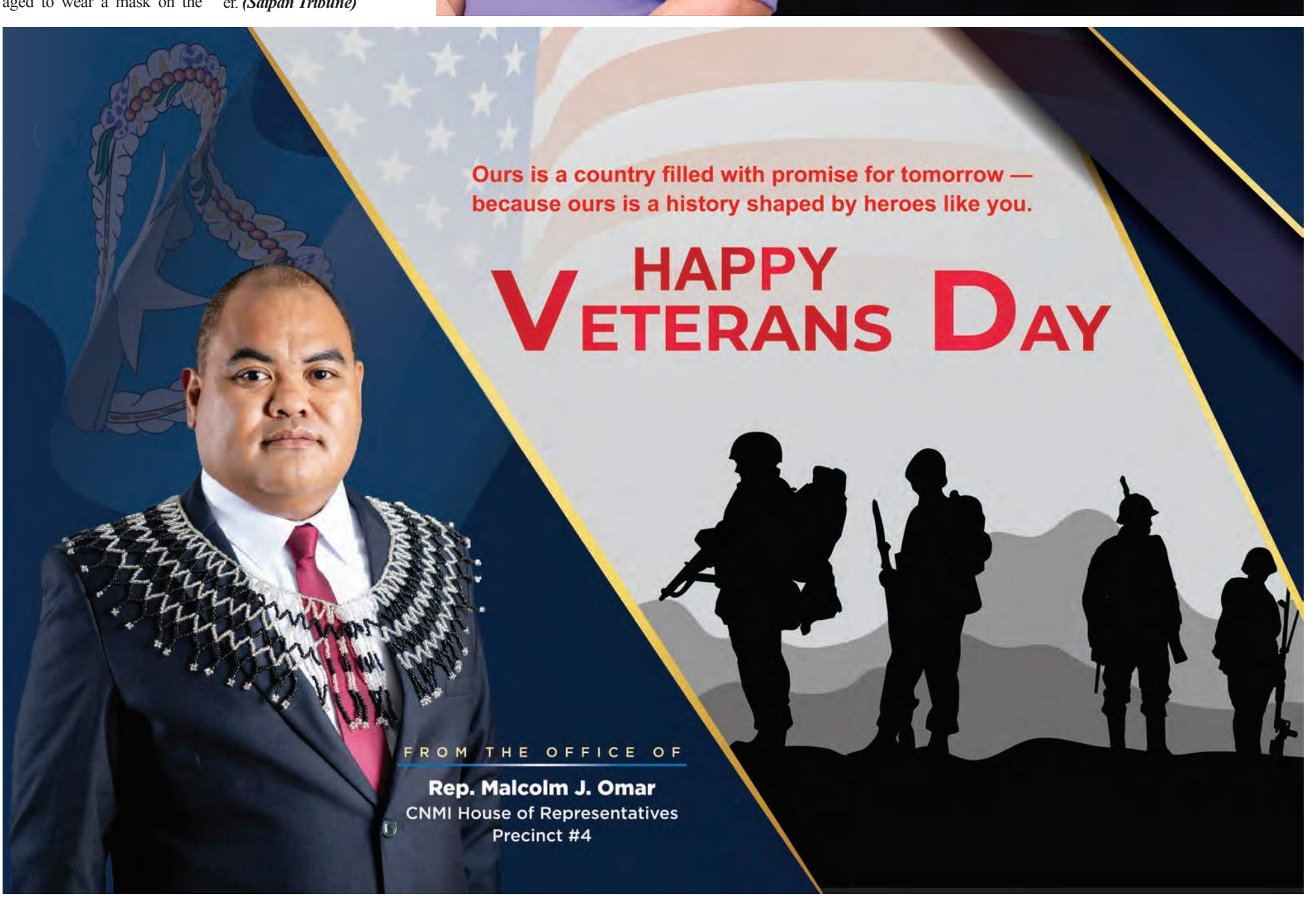
The Micronesia Climate Change Alliance and Our Common Wealth 670will be hosting the third Åmot Walk: Building a Path Toward Peace and Unity in the Pacific on Nov. 10-12, 2023, which will take place this time on Rota.

Cami D. Egurrola, who is the director of Communications for MCCA, said yesterday that the Åmot Walk is actually taking place all over the Marianas, and the Rota stage of the event is "the pathway to the third island in this journey."

On Rota, there will first be a Unity Ceremony on Nov. 10 at 5pm at the As Nieves Stone Quarry. "Gupot" will take place the next day, Nov. 11, 2023, at 6pm, at the Teteto Pavilion. The Åmut Tour and Demonstrations will then happen on Nov. 12, 2023, starting at 8am, at Hatdin Åmot.

The Åmot Walk will also be taking place on Tinian on Dec. 9, 2023, and in Guam next year, with a date to be announced later. ***(Saipan Tribune)***


HAPPY
VETERAN'S DAY
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED
"To the veterans who gave their all in defending their homeland, people, and freedom, and to the families and friends that support them every step of the way, know that your valor, bravery, and sacrifice strengthens the bulwark of our great nation and will always be honored and remembered."
Hon. Ramon "RB" Jose Blas Camacho
Mayor of Saipan


Ours is a country filled with promise for tomorrow — because ours is a history shaped by heroes like you.
HAPPY
VETERANS DAY
FROM THE OFFICE OF
Rep. Malcolm J. Omar
CNMI House of Representatives
Precinct #4

Business

Lilles, Moses, Vincent top McDonald's Halloween costume tilt

Colin Lilles, Geovanni Moses, and Leonardo Vincent were the winners of McDonald's of Saipan's first ever Halloween Kids Costume Contest, which took place at McDonald's Chalan Laulau last Oct. 29.

Lilles won the Most Creative category after dressing up as a tank made out or cardboard and painted with camouflage patterns like actual military tanks. Recycled cardboard boxes and art skills left the judges in awe of the design process of the costume.

Moses was the winner of the Funniest category with his costume that looked like an alien was carrying him away. His catwalk in front of the audience and judges had everyone laughing, leaving a smile on their faces.

The McDonald's-inspired category belonged to Vincent who came dressed as the iconic Grimace character.

MCDONALD'S OF GUAM & SAIPAN

All McDonald's Halloween Kids Costume Contest participants pose for a group photo

MCDONALD'S OF GUAM & SAIPAN

Best McDonald's Inspired Costume winner Leonardo Vincent poses as the lovable, purple McDonald's character Grimace.

His love for Grimace inspired him to dress up as the lovable, purple character of the McDonald's franchise.

Lilles, Moses, and Vincent received a $30 McDonald's gift card, which can be redeemed for delicious McDonald's meals and treats.

In the spirit of inclusion, more than 20 children who participated were rewarded with "Be Our Guest" cards from McDonald's for free small fries, expressing McDonald's gratitude for their enthusiastic participation.

"We extend our gratitude to the Saipan community for their incredible support and participation in this event. It is your enthusiasm that made this event a resounding success," McDonald's of Guam & Saipan said in a statement.

Locally owned by Joe and Marcia Ayuyu and their son Joe E. Ayuyu Jr., McDonald's of Guam & Saipan is the leading food service restaurant chain in the Mariana Islands. McDonald's of Guam & Saipan have

See LILLES on Page 15

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

AMENDED

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-24

SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 14, 2023: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF THREE (3) BRAND NEW UTILITY VEHICLES TO THE FRANCISCO MANGLONA BORJA TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING OCTOBER 09, 2023 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF THREE (03) BRAND NEW UTILITY VEHICLES TO THE FRANCISCO MANGLONA BORJA TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT **(IFB-003-24)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR **BEFORE 2:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 14, 2023. A 10% BID BOND/GUARANTY OR CASHIER'S CHECK PAYABLE TO CPA SHALL BE SUBMITTED** WITH THE BID DOCUMENTS. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

WENDI PRATER DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2023
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-004-24

SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 24, 2023: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ONE UNIT BRAND NEW SUV FOR CPA SAIPAN SEAPORT OFFICE"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING OCTOBER 23, 2023. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) UNIT BRAND NEW SUV FOR CPA SAIPAN SEAPORT OFFICE **(IFB-004-24)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 24, 2023. **A 10% BID GUARANTY IN THE FORM OF A BID BOND OR CASHIER'S CHECK SHALL BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID DOCUMENTS.** BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

WENDI PRATER DATE: _____
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

AMENDED

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-001-24

SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 14, 2023: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FOUR (4) BRAND NEW VEHICLES TO THE FRANCISCO MANGLONA BORJA TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING OCTOBER 09, 2023 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FOUR (04) BRAND NEW VEHICLES TO THE FRANCISCO MANGLONA BORJA TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT **(IFB-001-24)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 14, 2023. **A 10% BID BOND OR CASHEIR'S CHECK PAYABLE TO CPA SHALL BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID DOCUMENTS.** BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

WENDI PRATER DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2023
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

AMENDED

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-002-24

SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 14, 2023: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) UNIT BRAND NEW HEAVY DUTY TRUCK FOR SAIPAN SEAPORT POLICE"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING OCTOBER 09, 2023 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ONE (1) UNIT BRAND NEW HEAVY DUTY TRUCK FOR SAIPAN SEAPORT POLICE (**IFB-002-24**)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 14, 2023. **A 10% BID BOND/GUARANTY OR CASHIER'S CHECK PAYABLE TO CPA SHALL BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID DOCUMENTS.** BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

WENDI PRATER DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2023
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Kuen-Hee Han, Petitioner : FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-0385
VS
Je Seong Oh, Respondent, : SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PO box 502134, Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 31st day of October, 2023.

/s/_____
Clerk of Court

BUSINESS

AS INFLATION DECLINES

IMF warns Europe vs 'premature celebration'

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—The European Central Bank and other policymakers across Europe need to keep interest rates at current elevated levels until they're sure inflation is under control despite sluggish growth, the International Monetary Fund said Wednesday, warning against "premature celebration" as inflation declines from its peak.

The Washington-based IMF said that the cost of underestimating inflation's persistence could be painfully high and result in another round of rate hikes that could rob the economy of a large chunk of growth.

The European Central Bank, the Bank of England and the other central banks that aren't part of the 20-country eurozone "are reaching the peak of their interest rate cycles, while some have started to reduce policy rates," the IMF said in its twice-yearly regional economic outlook for Europe. "Nonetheless, a prolonged restrictive stance is still necessary to ensure that inflation moves back to target."

Historically, it takes an average of three years to return inflation to lower levels, while some anti-inflation campaigns have taken even longer, the IMF said. While central banks appear to have ended their series of hikes, a failure to finish the job and the resulting return to rate hikes could cost as much as a full percentage point of annual economic output.

Alfred Kammer, director of the IMF's Europe department, warned against "premature celebration" as he spoke to journalists in connection with the outlook. "It is less costly to be too tight than too loose" with interest-rate policy, Kammer said. The ECB, which halted its rate increases at its Oct. 26 for the first time in over a year, "is in a good spot," he said.

Inflation in the eurozone peaked at 10.6% in October 2022, and has steadily fallen to 2.9% in October.

The European Central Bank has raised its benchmark deposit rate by fully 4.5 percentage points between July 2022 and September 2023, from minus 0.5% to 4%. Higher rates are the typical tool central banks use to control inflation, since higher rates mean higher borrowing costs for consumer purchases and financing new officials and factory equipment. That reduces demand for goods and eases pressure on prices, but can also hurt growth - a difficult tightrope act for the ECB.

The Bank of England left its benchmark rate unchanged at 5.25% at a policy meeting last week.

LILLES

From page 14

munities for over 50 years in Guam and 30 years on Saipan and remains one of the island's largest employers.

For a glimpse of the event's highlights and creative costumes, please visit McDonald's of Guam and Saipan's website mcdonaldsguamandsaipan.com/contest or our social media page @mcdonaldsofguamandsaipan. McDonald's of Guam & Saipan invites everyone to share their experiences and photos from the Halloween Kids Costume Contest using the hashtag #McDHalloweenContest.

McDonald's is committed to providing the Saipan community with memorable experiences and delicious food. McDonald's is already looking forward to more exciting events and opportunities to bring families together in the future. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

MCDONALD'S OF GUAM & SAIPAN

Funniest Costume winner Geovanni Moses poses with judges (from left) Jhaymee Nebres, McDonald's department manager; Narme Menoda, McDonald's IT/Tech Support; and Connie Medino, McDonald's Payroll admin.

MCDONALD'S OF GUAM & SAIPAN

Most Creative Costume winner Colin Lilles poses with judges (from left) Jhaymee Nebres, McDonald's department manager; Narme Menoda, McDonald's IT/Tech Support; and Connie Medino, McDonald's Payroll admin.

Nation

Dems see abortion wins as springboard for 2024

WASHINGTON (AP)—Voters threw their support behind abortion rights in Ohio, Virginia and elsewhere as Democrats look to springboard off those wins by using the issue to drive turnout and shape next year's races for the White House, Congress and other elections.

» As GOP struggles to find winning message

Ohio offered the clearest snapshot on Tuesday of the issue's salience more than a year after the U.S. Supreme Court ended the nationwide right to abortion. Voters in the increasingly Republican-leaning state resoundingly approved an amendment to the state constitution to protect abortion access.

Democrats also harnessed the issue in Virginia, riding it to retake control of the Legislature, and in Kentucky, giving Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear a second term after he made abortion rights central to his campaign in the deeply Republican state.

Election night was an energizing moment for Democrats hoping abortion rights will pull voters to the polls in the 2024 presidential election. The campaigning and results for the amendment in Ohio, the only state with an abortion question on the ballot this year, is a precursor to similar ballot measures expected to be put to a vote in several states next year. That includes Arizona and Nevada, which play pivotal roles in the White House race.

Abortion also will sit at the center of a slate of state Supreme Court races in 2024.

For the anti-abortion movement, the latest post-Roe defeat came after its scattershot messaging struggled to win over voters in a state that has become a testing ground. The scope of the victory for abortion access in Ohio suggests that a significant number of Republicans voted in favor of the amendment, signaling deep divisions in the party over their next steps.

Elisabeth Smith, director of state policy and advocacy at the Center for Reproductive Rights, said the anti-abortion movement is "on their heels" after turning to misinformation and fearmongering in Ohio in a losing cause.

"It's become clear that the majority of Americans support abortion rights and want to see abortion remain legal and accessible, and the anti-abortion side knows that," Smith said.

According to AP VoteCast, a nationwide survey of more than 94,000 voters, 63% of voters in the 2022 midterm elections said abortion should be legal in most or all cases. About one-third of voters said it should be illegal in all or most cases.

Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the anti-abortion group SBA Pro-Life America, said Ohio's results "serve as a warning sign for the GOP heading into 2024" and "proved this is not a formula for success."

"The true lesson from last night's loss is that Democrats are going to make abortion front-and-center throughout 2024 campaigns," Dannenfelser said in a statement. "The GOP consultant class needs to wake up. Candidates must put money and messaging toward countering the Democrats' attacks or they will lose every time."

Trump's rivals vow to back Israel, argue over China and Ukraine at third debate

MIAMI (AP)—In their first debate since the start of the Israel-Hamas war, the Republican presidential candidates all declared hawkish support for Israel but squabbled over China and Ukraine as they faced growing pressure to try to catch Donald Trump, who was again absent.

Sparring over several issues were Ron DeSantis and Nikki Haley, who has appeared competitive with DeSantis' distant second-place position in some national polls. Much of the debate focused on policy—especially foreign policy issues—rather than Trump and his record.

Haley, the former South Carolina governor and United Nations ambassador, declared she would end trade relations with China "until they stop murdering Americans from fentanyl—something Ron has yet to say that he's going to do." In return, the Florida governor said Haley "welcomed" Chinese investment to her state, referencing a land deal with a Chinese manufacturer while she led South Carolina.

All five candidates face growing urgency, with the leadoff Iowa caucuses just a little more than two months away, to cut into Trump's huge margins in the 2024 primary and establish themselves as a clear alternative. But it's not clear many Republican primary voters want a Trump alternative. And given his dominance in early state and national polls, Trump again skipped the debate to deprive his rivals of attention.

Trump was the subject of the debate's first question, when moderators asked each candidate to explain why they were the right person to beat him.

DeSantis said, "He owes it to you to be on this stage and explain why he should get another chance." He suggested Trump had lost a step since winning the White House in 2016, saying he failed to follow through on his "America First" policies.

Haley, who is pulling some voter and donor curiosity from DeSantis, said Trump "used to be right" on supporting Ukraine but "now he's getting weak in the knees."

But the conversation moved on to policy issues with relatively few head-to-head confrontations. The moderators often declined to call on candidates who were mentioned by others onstage, as is normally the custom.

The DeSantis and Haley campaigns for months have attacked each other on China, long a topic of scorn in GOP primaries. Their allied super PACs have run ads in early primary states alleging the other side is soft on Beijing.

Haley also accused DeSantis of being a "liberal" on the environment for opposing the extraction of fossil fuels off Florida's coast—a process known as fracking—and dared him to "just own it."

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Blinken in Seoul for talks focused on N. Korea and its military cooperation with Russia

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula, suspected North Korean cooperation with Russia in its war on Ukraine and concerns about China's growing assertiveness topped U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken's agenda in South Korea on Thursday. Blinken was in Seoul for talks with South Korea's leadership following a G7 foreign ministers meeting in Japan on Wednesday in which the group previewed much of what he will discuss. The G7 "strongly condemned" North Korea's ballistic missile tests as well as its alleged arms transfers to Russia, which are both in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions against the North. Even before Blinken's arrival, North Korea's official news agency, the Korean Central News Agency, condemned the visit as well as one by U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, who travels to Seoul next week, describing them as "warmongers" bringing a "new war cloud" to Asia. Tensions between the Koreas are at their highest point years as the pace of both Pyongyang's weapons tests and South Korea's combined military exercises with the United States have intensified in a tit-for-tat cycle.

US plans to build $553M terminal at Sri Lanka's Colombo port in rivalry with China

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—The U.S. announced a $553 million project Wednesday to build a deep-water shipping container terminal in Sri Lanka's Port of Colombo as it competes with China in international development financing. The project is billed as providing critical infrastructure for the South Asian nation with the potential to "transform Colombo into a world-class logistics hub at the intersection of major shipping routes and emerging markets," according to the U.S. International Development Finance Corp. The DFC loan of $553 million for the West Container Terminal will "expand its shipping capacity, creating greater prosperity for Sri Lanka—without adding to sovereign debt—while at the same strengthening the position of our allies across the region," said DFC Chief Executive Officer Scott Nathan. The announcement comes as Sri Lanka is struggling to recover from a dire financial and economic crisis.

The Port of Colombo has been operating near its capacity since 2021, and the new terminal will cater to growing economies in the Bay of Bengal, the DFC said.

Cambodia deports 25 Japanese nationals suspected of operating online scams

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Twenty-five Japanese nationals suspected of involvement in a cyberscam operation based in Cambodia were deported to Japan on Wednesday, said Gen. Khieu Sopheak, a spokesperson for Cambodia's Interior Ministry. The Japanese government arranged a charter flight to transport the suspects, who were detained in September after Cambodian police received a tip-off from their Japanese counterparts, he told The Associated Press. The 25 were arrested in the capital, Phnom Penh, according to Gen. Keo Vanthan, a spokesperson for the immigration police. Khieu Sopheak thanked the Japanese government "for their support and good cooperation with the Cambodian government in order to arrest these people."

Cybercrime scams have become a major issue in Asia. In August, the U.N.'s human rights office said that criminal gangs have forced hundreds of thousands of people in Southeast Asia into participating in unlawful online scam operations, including false romantic ploys, bogus investment pitches and illegal gambling schemes.

Pakistan says nearly 25,000 Afghans waiting for visas to US won't be deported as part of clampdown

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's prime minister on Wednesday sought to reassure thousands of Afghans waiting in Pakistan for resettlement in the United States that they won't be deported as part of his government's widely criticized crackdown on undocumented migrants in the country. Islamabad has launched a crackdown on illegal migration, saying any unregistered foreign national and migrant lacking proper documentation would face arrest and deportation. The drive mostly affects Afghans because they are the majority of foreigners living in Pakistan, although the government says it's targeting all who are in the country illegally.

At least 25,000 Afghans—who had worked for the American military or government, international organizations and aid agencies, as well as media and human rights groups—escaped the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 to Pakistan and are waiting to be processed to relocate to the U.S. Pakistani authorities said they have received a list with their names from U.S. officials. Pakistan has long hosted about 1.7 million Afghans, most of whom fled during the 1979-1989 Soviet occupation. In addition, more than half a million people fled Afghanistan when the Taliban seized power in the final weeks of U.S. and NATO pullout.

Military-ruled Myanmar hosts joint naval exercise with Russia, its close ally and top arms supplier

BANGKOK (AP)—The military-run Southeast Asian nation of Myanmar is holding its first joint naval exercise with Russia, state media reported Tuesday, with the countries carrying out maneuvers in the Andaman Sea. Reports in the state-run Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper said that the maritime security exercise with Russia was being held until Thursday, 157 kilometers (85 miles) west of Myeik in Myanmar's far south. Some Russian navy vessels sailed from Yangon to take part, state television MRTV reported. The three-day joint drill involves aircraft and naval vessels and focuses on defending against threats from air, sea and land as well as other maritime security measures, the reports said. Russia is a major supporter and arms supplier of Myanmar's military government, which was installed after the army seized power and ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021. Russia defends Myanmar's military government in international forums, and the ruling generals return the favor by generally supporting Moscow's foreign policy agenda. Myanmar has been treated as a pariah state by many Western nations since the military takeover and the violent suppression of protests against it, which has led to the deaths of thousands of civilians and given rise to an armed resistance movement in many parts of the country. The Global New Light of Myanmar said the head of the military government, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, met on Monday with Adm. Nikolai Yevmenov, the commander-in-chief of Russia's navy, at Thilawa port in the southern part of Yangon. The Russian officer welcomed an inspection by the Myanmar leader, who reviewed a guard of honor and toured one of the Russian vessels.

World

Israel-Hamas fighting heats up in Gaza City

AP

Israeli army troops are seen next to a destroyed building during a ground operation in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023., Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023. I

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—Palestinians living in the heart of Gaza's largest city said Wednesday they could see and hear Israeli ground forces closing in from multiple directions, accelerating the exodus of thousands of civilians as food and water become scarce and urban fighting between Israel and Hamas heats up.

» Accelerates exodus of Palestinians to the south

The Israeli army has not given specifics on troop movements as it presses its ground assault, vowing to crush Hamas after its deadly Oct. 7 assault inside Israel. But residents said Israeli forces had moved into inner neighborhoods of Gaza City amid intense bombardment all around the surrounding north.

Clashes took place within a kilometer (0.6 miles) of the territory's largest hospital, Shifa, which has become a focal point in the war.

The Israeli military says Hamas' main command center is located in and under the hospital complex and that senior leaders of the group are hiding there, using the facility as a shield.

■ ■ ■

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. carried out an airstrike on a weapons warehouse in eastern Syria used by Iranian-backed militias, in retaliation for what has been a growing number of attacks on bases housing U.S. troops in the region for the past several weeks, the Pentagon said.

In Wednesday's strike, two U.S. F-15 fighter jets dropped multiple bombs on a weapons storage facility near Maysulun in Deir el-Zour that was known to be used by Iran's Revolutionary Guard, U.S. officials said.

"The President has no higher priority than the safety of U.S. personnel, and he directed today's action to make clear that the United States will defend itself, its personnel, and its interests," Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said in a statement.

A military official told reporters in a call that people were seen at the warehouse during the day as the U.S. military watched the site for hours, but the number decreased to about "a couple" overnight when the strike occurred. The official said the strike triggered secondary explosions, indicating the presences of weapons, but the U.S. believes that no civilians were killed and any people at the warehouse were tied to the Revolutionary Guard or militia groups.

The strike, said a senior defense official also on the call, was aimed at "disrupting and degrading the capabilities of groups directly responsible for attacking U.S. forces in the region" by specifically targeting facilities associated with the Revolutionary Guard. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity to provide an assessment of the strike.

■ ■ ■

Hamas and hospital staff deny the claim and say the military is making a pretext to strike it.

For Palestinians in Gaza, the hospital is a symbol of civilian suffering in the war. Like others, it has been overwhelmed by a constant stream of wounded and struggling as electricity and medical supplies run out. Tens of thousands of displaced people have been sheltering in and around the complex.

The Group of Seven wealthy industrial nations issued a statement Wednesday condemning Hamas and supporting Israel's right to self-defense. But the group also called for the "unimpeded" delivery of food, water, medicine and fuel, and for "humanitarian pauses" in the fighting.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has left open the possibility of small pauses to deliver aid, but has ruled out a broader cease-fire unless some 240 hostages taken by Hamas are freed.

"There are no limitations" on how long the war will last, Benny Gantz, a member of Israel's decision-making War Cabinet, said Wednesday.

Gantz acknowledged that Israel does not yet have a vision for the Gaza Strip should it succeed in destroying Hamas rule, but said it will include an Israeli security presence in the territory after the war—a point that echoed comments earlier in the week by Netanyahu, who said Israel would likely maintain security control of Gaza for an "indefinite period."

Off The Wall

ETs return to Mexico's congress

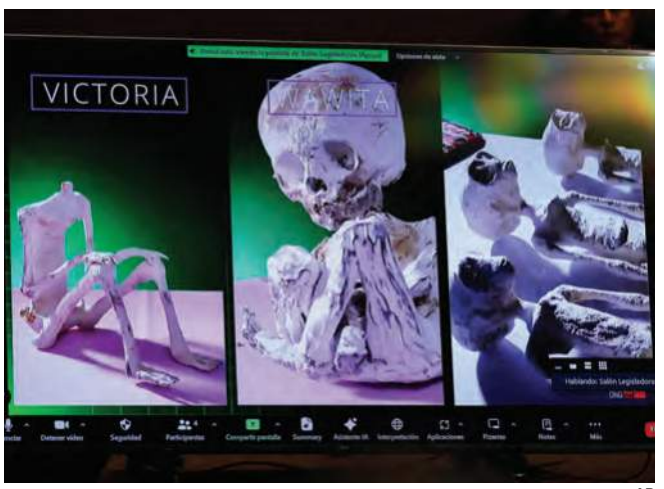
» Journalist presses case for 'non-human beings'

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The lower chamber of Mexico's congress once again turned to spectacle Tuesday, devoting hours of its time to a controversial character who pressed the case for "non-human beings" he said were found in Peru.

Less than three weeks after Category 5 Hurricane Otis devastated Acapulco, a port of nearly 1 million people, the Chamber of Deputies spent more than three hours listening to journalist José Jaime Maussan and his group of Peruvian doctors.

Maussan and some Mexican lawmakers became the subject of international ridicule in September when he presented two boxes with supposed mummies found in Peru. He along with others claimed they were "non-human beings that are not part of our terrestrial evolution."

In 2017, Maussan made similar claims in Peru, and a report by that country's prosecutor's office found the bodies were actually "recently manufactured dolls, which have been covered with a mixture of paper and synthetic glue to simulate the presence of skin."



AP

A screen displays what Mexican journalist Jaime Maussan claims are extraterrestrial life forms at the Chamber of Deputies in Mexico City, Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023.

The report added the figures were almost certainly human-made and that "they are not the remains of ancestral aliens that they have tried to present." The bodies were not publicly unveiled at the time, so it is unclear if they are the same as those presented to Mexico's congress.

On Tuesday, Dr. Daniel Mendoza showed photographs and x-rays of what he said was a "non-human being." Maussan said it was a "new species" as it did not have lungs or ribs.

Lawmaker Sergio Gutiérrez Luna, from the governing party of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, said "all ideas and all proposals will always be welcome to debate them, hear them to agree with or not."

Science & Technology

Oldest black hole dates back to 470M years after Big Bang

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Scientists have discovered the oldest black hole yet, a cosmic beast formed a mere 470 million years after the Big Bang.

The findings, published Monday, confirm what until now were theories that supermassive black holes existed at the dawn of the universe. NASA's James Webb Space Telescope and Chandra X-Ray Observatory teamed up over the past year to make the observations.

Given the universe is 13.7 billion years old, that puts the age of this black hole at 13.2 billion years.

Even more astounding to scientists, this black hole is a whopper—10 times bigger than the black hole in our own Milky Way.

It's believed to weigh anywhere from 10% to 100% the mass of all the stars in its galaxy, said lead author Akos Bogdan of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. That is nowhere near the miniscule ratio of the black holes in our Milky Way and other nearby galaxies—an estimated 0.1%, he noted.

"It's just really early on in the universe to be such a behemoth," said Yale University's Priyamvada Natarajan, who took part in the study published in the journal Nature Astronomy. A companion article appeared in the Astrophysical Journal Letters. "It's astounding how this thing actually is sitting in place already with its galaxy so early on in the universe."

NASA spacecraft finds tiny moon orbiting an asteroid

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—The little asteroid visited by NASA's Lucy spacecraft this week had a big surprise for scientists.

It turns out that the asteroid Dinkinesh has a dinky sidekick — a mini moon.

The discovery was made during Wednesday's flyby of Dinkinesh, 300 million miles (480 million kilometers) away in the main asteroid belt beyond Mars. The spacecraft snapped a picture of the pair when it was about 270 miles out (435 kilometers).

In data and images beamed back to Earth, the spacecraft confirmed that Dinkinesh is barely a half-mile (790 meters) across. Its closely circling moon is a mere one-tenth-of-a-mile (220 meters) in size.

NASA sent Lucy past Dinkinesh as a rehearsal for the bigger, more mysterious asteroids out near Jupiter. Launched in 2021, the spacecraft will reach the first of these so-called Trojan asteroids in 2027 and explore them for at least six years. The original target list of seven asteroids now stands at 11.

With Sincere Gratitude

†Anthony Castro Reyes

We, the family of our beloved father, grandfather, and brother, †Anthony, want to convey our deepest appreciation to our friends and family, both near and far. Your abundant love, kind words, and heartfelt prayers have been a source of great comfort during this challenging time. Your overwhelming support in bringing our beloved +Anthony home and to his final resting place is a testament to the genuine kindness that surrounds us. Your presence and generosity will forever hold a special place in our hearts.

I Familia

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

Our endless and profound gratitude to all our family, relatives and friends for all your kindness and support in the sudden passing of our beloved

†Vivian Kisa Santos

We wish to give special thanks to the first responders, to our CNMI leaders who came to our aide, and to our neighbors and friends who were there to help us keep it together. We also extend our sincere appreciation to the Borja Funeral Home for flawlessly handling all the necessary arrangements; the many extra touches made the day and ceremony seamless, simple and very comforting. Our heartfelt 'thank you' to Fr. Charlie, to Vicky Fitial and Choir, and all who assisted in the beautiful celebration of the Holy Eucharist for our sister, †Vivian. All the prayers and beautiful songs are the guiding force and light for our sister's journey.

Our prayers, love and appreciation is also extended to all our family and friends who joined in the virtual rosary and our nightly Mass offerings. Words cannot impart all the warm emotions nor express the immeasurable level of comfort and support you all have been to us in our time of distress. We are truly grateful and very appreciative of your love, your support and prayers for our strength and healing.

We shall remember you all in our prayers.

Dångkulu na si Yu'us Ma'åsi'!

Ellen & Maggie & Families

Life & Style

Patrick Dempsey named Sexiest Man Alive by People magazine

LOS ANGELES (AP)—He's not just "McDreamy" anymore—Patrick Dempsey is now also People magazine's Sexiest Man Alive.

The "Grey's Anatomy" star and race car driver takes the mantle from "Captain America" star Chris Evans, who was 2022's selection. The pick was revealed on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" Tuesday night.

"I've always been the bridesmaid!" Dempsey, 57, told the magazine about his initial reaction. "I'd completely forgotten about it and never even contemplated being in this position. So my ego is good."

The actor stars in the upcoming Michael Mann film "Ferrari." He told The Associated Press last year that he did all the driving himself, calling it "the best role I've ever had."

Dempsey has driven in several professional races, including the 24 Hours of Le Mans, and is part of the Wright Motorsports racing team, according to its website.

Dempsey said his three children are bound to tease him about his People magazine selection and "pick on me and figure out every reason why I shouldn't be."

The People edition with Dempsey's cover story will be out Friday.

VIANNEY LE CAER

Patrick Dempsey poses for photographers upon arrival for the premiere of the film "Ferrari" during the 80th edition of the Venice Film Festival, Aug. 31, 2023, in Venice, Italy.

In addition to racing and acting, he founded the Dempsey Center, a Maine-based organization that provides care and resources for cancer patients, in honor of his late mother.

Dempsey achieved heartthrob status as Dr. Derek Shepherd—nicknamed "McDreamy"—on "Grey's Anatomy," appearing in more than 250 episodes.

He plays Italian race car driver Piero Taruffi in "Ferrari," which arrives in theaters later this year. The film has received a waiver so that its stars can promote it without breaking rules in the ongoing actors strike.

Other Sexiest Man Alive recipients include Michael B. Jordan, John Legend, Paul Rudd, Brad Pitt, Harrison Ford and Mel Gibson, who was the magazine's first recipient in 1985.

Adidas says it may write off remaining unsold Yeezy shoes

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—Adidas said it might have to write off the remaining 300 million euros ($320 million) worth of Yeezy shoes left unsold after it cut ties with rapper Ye, formerly known as Kanye West. The company will decide in the coming weeks whether or not to do a third release of the shoes next year to generate more donations to groups fighting antisemitism.

The shoe and sports clothing company, which cut ties with Ye in October 2022 after he made antisemitic remarks online, has sold 750 million euros worth of the shoes in two stages earlier this year through Adidas smartphone apps and its website. Part of the profits went to groups like the Anti-Defamation League and the Philonise & Keeta Floyd Institute for Social Change, run by social justice advocate Philonise Floyd, the brother of George Floyd.

The company included the possible write-off of the remaining Yeezy inventory in its outlook Wednesday for its earnings this year, narrowing its expected loss to 100 million euros from an earlier prediction of 450 million euros, thanks in part to the earlier two releases of Yeezy shoes. CEO Bjorn Gulden, who took over after the Yeezy breakup, is leading an effort to recover from the loss of the profitable Yeezy business.

The announcement from Adidas comes at a time of rising antisemitism and islamophobia after the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war. Gulden referenced the "terrible circumstances" in the Middle East, saying some of the company's more than 600 employees in Israel had been called up for military service and that "we, as a company, are starting donations programs, for the whole area, also for Gaza." The company is working with the SOS Kinderdoerfer weltweit children's relief agency to help those who have been affected by the conflict.

The assumption in the outlook is that remaining Yeezy inventory "will be written off....if that will happen or not is something that we evaluate all the time, so there are no decisions on what we'll do," Gulden told reporters on a conference call. "Right now, that is financially the worst case and it is a possibility. Currently there is no decision. "

He added that "we of course hope we can do more drops next year and we can get more value out of it and donate the proceeds, but right now financially we haven't made a decision and that's why the outlook is the way it is."

He said there were "many scenarios" and that the shoes were stored in a number of different locations. He declined to say what the company would do with the shoes if they remain unsold.

The breakup with Ye left the company, based in Herzogenaurach, Germany, with 1.2 billion euros worth of unsold Yeezys and searching for a responsible way to dispose of them. Giving the shoes away to people in need would have raised concerns about informal resales due to their high market value, the company said, while restitching them to remove the brand identification would have been dishonest.

Lainey Wilson wins 5 CMA Awards including entertainer of the year and album of the year

By ANDREW DALTON
Associated Press

Lainey Wilson took home five trophies including entertainer of the year Wednesday night at the Country Music Association Awards.

The 31-year-old Louisiana singer was the undisputed star of the night at Nashville's Bridgestone Arena, where she also was named female vocalist of the year, won album of the year for "Bell Bottom Country" and Wilson gave a fiery rendition of her song "Wildflowers and Wild Horses" that looked like it came from a classic Hollywood Western.

"This is all I've ever wanted to do, it's the only thing I know how to do." Wilson said through tears as she accepted entertainer of the year. "It finally feels like country music is starting to love me back."

Wilson came into the night the top nominee with nine nods, and had won one award before the ABC telecast even started as she and HARDY were named as winners in the musical event of the year category, for "Wait in the Truck."

It was also another major Nashville night for rapper-turned-singer Jelly Roll, who earlier this year topped the CMT Music Awards.

He opened the show with a performance of his hit "Need a Favor," along with surprise guest Wynonna Judd, then closed it in a duet with K. Michelle on "Love Can Build A Bridge," Judd's classic song with her late mother Naomi.

In between, Jelly Roll won best new artist.

"There is something poetic about a 39-year-old man winning new artist of the year," he said from the stage. "What's in front of you is so much more important than what's behind you."

Luke Combs, winner of entertainer of the year the previous two years, took home single of the year Wednesday night for his cover of "Fast Car" by Tracy Chapman, who became the unlikely winner of song of the year for a tune she wrote in 1988.

"I want to thank Tracy Chapman for writing one of the greatest songs of all time," the 33-year-old North Carolina singer said as he accepted award. "It's the first favorite song I ever had."

War letters project marks 25th year as work continues

DEAR READERS: Twenty-five years ago tomorrow, I told you about a new, nationwide effort to honor and remember our nation's troops, veterans and families by seeking out and preserving their war correspondence from every conflict in U.S. history.

The response was overwhelming. The founder of this initiative, Andy Carroll, just told me that, as of this week, and on this special 25th anniversary, the archive has collected more than 200,000 war-related letters and emails. The nonprofit organization Andy created, the Center for American War Letters (CAWL), based at Chapman University in California, is still seeking correspondence.

I would like to thank those of you who have already donated letters to CAWL for sharing them, and encourage those of you who are not aware of CAWL but might have letters to contribute, to visit its website (WarLetters.us) to learn more. CAWL is especially interested in any correspondence, including emails, from younger veterans who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan.—LOVE, ABBY

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Over the past few months, due to extenuating circumstances, I have been spending a couple of days a month at my sister's. While there, I sometimes had the feeling that something was crawling on me, but thought it was just the idea of being somewhere other than my home.

Last time, however, I woke up during the night not only with the crawling feeling, but also the sound of buzzing in my ear. I also noticed that when I sat in the spot where I usually do, bugs were getting in my hair. Now my sister is asking me when I want to come and stay for a couple of days again. I don't want to hurt her feelings, but I don't want to deal with bugs again. What should I do?

WARY IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR WARY: What you should do is level with your sister. Explain that during the last few visits, you have felt something crawling or buzzing while you were in bed, and that you also noticed some insects getting into your hair. Your sister's home may have an infestation of some kind, which won't get any better until she calls a pest-control company.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband is deceased. I have two grandsons (42 and 39) and a great-grandson (24) living with me. None are married. I do not allow overnight guests. This morning at 3, I heard a girl come upstairs from the downstairs bedroom to get another girl. I was livid. Am I wrong to give them walking papers? I've told them before this was a NO-NO. They thought I was asleep. (I was reading.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CAUGHT 'EM IN ILLINOIS

DEAR CAUGHT 'EM: If you prefer not to have men mating like rabbits under your roof while all you have is a book, your wishes should prevail. It's your house, your rules. It's time these "naughty boys" found a place of their own, and you are within your rights to insist upon it.

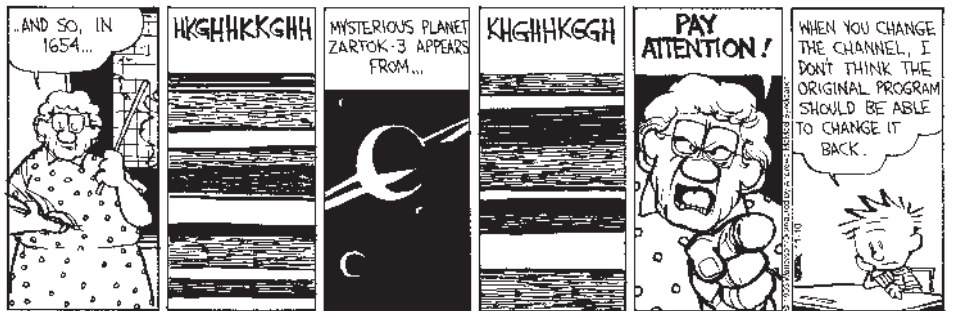
■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


...AND SO, IN 1654...
HKGHHKKGHH
MYSTERIOUS PLANET ZARTOK-3 APPEARS FROM...
KHGHHKGGH
PAY ATTENTION!
WHEN YOU CHANGE THE CHANNEL, I DON'T THINK THE ORIGINAL PROGRAM SHOULD BE ABLE TO CHANGE IT BACK.

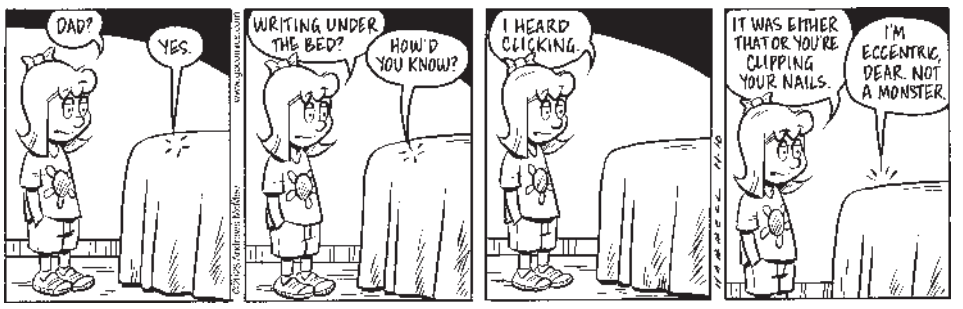
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

TELL ME A SECRET ABOUT YOU, AND I'LL TELL YOU ONE ABOUT ME
PSST, PSST, PSST
WAH HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA
I DON'T LIKE THIS GAME
TOLD HER ABOUT THE HOLSTEIN JAMMIES, DIDN'T YOU?

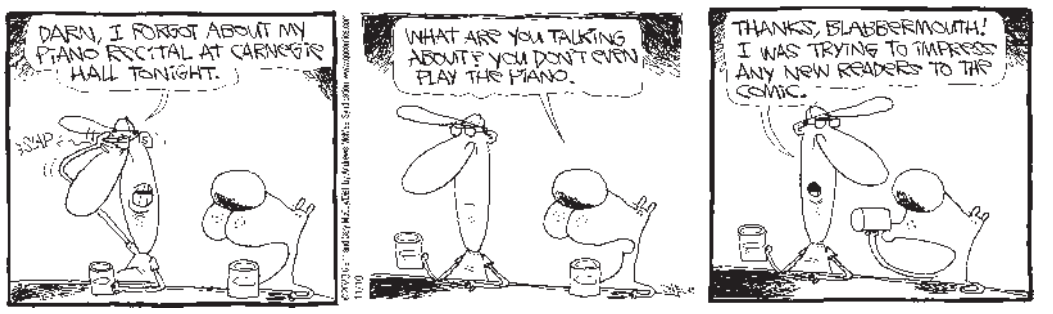
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


DARN, I FORGOT ABOUT MY PIANO RECITAL AT CARNEGIE HALL TONIGHT.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU DON'T EVEN PLAY THE PIANO.
THANKS, BLABBERMOUTH! I WAS TRYING TO IMPRESS ANY NEW READERS TO THE COMIC.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

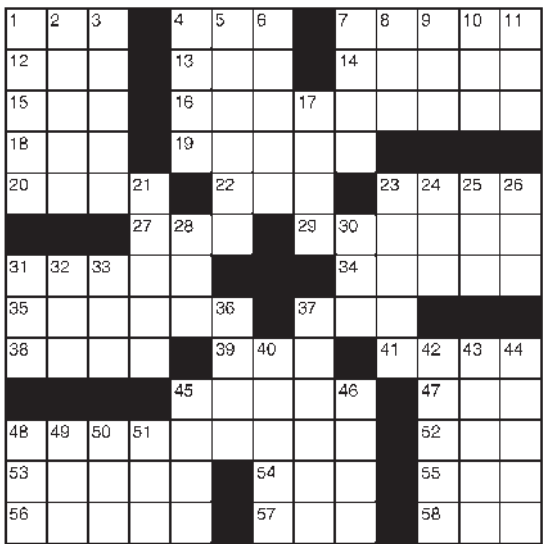
ACROSS
1 Asian holiday
4 Music booster
7 Gold-loving king
12 — Baba
13 Stephen of "Still Crazy"
14 Keen
15 "Top Gun" target
16 Domino product
18 Summer in Arles
19 Furtive type
20 Belgrade resident
22 Golf's Ernie
23 "Hulk" actor Eric
27 Not 'neath
29 Swapped
31 Cameo shapes
34 Sulk
35 Luggage carrier
37 Tom Collins liquor
38 "Jabberwocky" starter
39 Wise bird
41 Ump's call
45 Old anesthetic
47 Bikini top
48 Hawaiian crop
52 Goal
53 Range brand
54 Mormon church, for short
55 — kwon do
56 Half of a '60s group
57 Take courses?
58 Hosp. sections

DOWN
1 Domesticates
2 Select group
3 Striped cat
4 Curved lines
5 Not as nice
6 Talk show group
7 Pandemic cover-up
8 Hosp. area
9 Burrowed
10 — premium
11 Sun. talk
17 Sunrise direction
21 Fabric bundles
23 Rural buildings
24 Commotion
25 Ultra-modernist
26 Do sums
28 Compass pt.
30 Hitter's stat
31 Select, with "for"
32 Pledge
33 Celestial altar
36 Campus mil. group
37 Jackson of "A Touch of Class"
40 One in a pod
42 Diminish
43 Monastery figure
44 Chair designer
45 Historic times
46 Take five
48 "Cheers" bartender
49 Actress Thurman
50 Leg, in slang
51 Santa — winds

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	P	E		I	T	E	M		R	A	T	E
Y	I	N		S	A	I	F		F	C	O	N
E	N	T	I	R	E	L	Y		D	A	R	T
			I	R	A		S	E	L	F	I	E	S
O	U	T	S	E	T		R	E	L			
S	T	L		L	I	D		G	A	T	O	R
H	E	E	D		P	A	D		G	A	B	E
A	S	S	E	T		M	I	R		S	I	A
			I	A	S		N	O	S	H	F	D
T	A	S	T	I	N	G		Y	A	K		
O	R	F	O		A	R	M	A	M	F	N	T
T	F	R	I		F	I	L	L		N	F	F
S	A	I	D		U	N	I	S		T	W	A

Yesterday's answer 11-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Miranda Lambert, 40; Ellen Pompeo, 54; Tracy Morgan, 55; Michael Jai White, 56.

Happy Birthday: Take the high road and do what you do best. Structure your time to ensure your success. Use your charm, experience and connections to help you go the distance. Opportunities are yours to make and discover. Be in control, and don't let up until you are satisfied with the results. Make change a part of your plan, and relish in events as they unfold. Your numbers are 8, 13, 21, 28, 32, 36, 40.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* A joint venture may tempt you, but read the fine print. Know your rights and obligations before you agree. Assess your relationship with others and what and who is advantageous. Take care of your interests and build a future that makes you happy. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20- May 20):* Change begins with you. Come up with ideas that suit you best, and refuse to let anyone interfere. It's up to you to create opportunities that lead to the life you want to live. A partnership requires common interests and goals to work. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Pay attention to your needs, and don't let anyone interfere with your plans. Speak up for yourself and make your position clear. Transparency is your best choice if you want to come out ahead. Learn from experience, and you'll ward off a mistake. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* A networking event, physical activity or honing skills you can use to pursue your dream are a priority if you want to get ahead and be happy. Create your scenario instead of letting others get in your way. Do what makes you feel good. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Arguing wastes time. You are better off putting your efforts into self-improvement, sprucing up your home and paying more attention to what makes you happy. Use your time wisely and surround yourself with people who are supportive, not critical. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Fix any situation that needs attention. Speak up, and you'll convince others to see things your way. Participate in functions that allow you to spread your ideas and drum up support. Avoid emotional spending or paying for someone else's mistake. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Control situations before they spin out of control. Use your charm and positive attitude to get others to see things your way. A gentle nudge will make the difference regarding personal and domestic affairs. Don't let an outsider hold you back. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Let your charm lead the way. How you deal with others will determine how much help you receive. Make positive change a priority, and everything else will fall into place. Don't hold back when saying and doing all you can could lead to success. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Pay attention to detail and be unique, and you will stand out amongst your peers. Getting the upper hand before someone can outmaneuver you will be your ticket to success. Be humble and gracious; you'll gain popularity and raise your profile. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't let frustration set in when patience and perfection are necessary to reach your destination. Look for a unique way to separate yourself from anyone competing with you. Make your presence felt, and positive results will come your way. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Use your charm, a kind gesture or emotional understanding to gain popularity and support to help you reach your dream. Spending time with someone you love or participating in a joint venture will encourage a positive lifestyle change. Romance is present. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't let anyone outshine you, and don't be afraid to speak up and follow your intuition. Protect your assets from those encouraging or tempting you to be generous to a fault. Choose to take better care of yourself using fitness to reach your objective. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are supportive, proactive and spontaneous. You are appealing and influential.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9	8					1		
7		1			2		6	
	3			1				
1			3				5	4
				2				3
				6		2	8	
8								
6			1			3		5
3	9				6	7		

Difficulty: ★★★★ 11/10

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	1	4	3	6	9	2	7	8
3	8	7	5	4	2	1	9	6
9	2	6	1	8	7	4	5	3
4	7	5	9	3	1	8	6	2
8	3	2	6	7	5	9	1	4
1	6	9	8	2	4	7	3	5
2	4	1	7	5	6	3	8	9
7	5	8	2	9	3	6	4	1
6	9	3	4	1	8	5	2	7

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/9

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ELODIE YUNG Solution: 9 letters

K	R	O	Y	W	E	N	E	E	T	R	I	H	T	B
A	M	A	R	D	I	S	T	R	I	C	T	L	O	L
R	X	M	A	U	R	I	E	R	N	I	N	J	A	E
A	N	A	G	O	D	S	O	F	E	G	Y	P	T	S
T	I	N	A	T	C	H	I	O	S	D	A	D	U	F
E	J	O	N	A	T	H	A	N	A	C	I	E	K	I
N	S	I	R	A	P	Ⓕ	Ⓘ	Ⓛ	Ⓜ	E	L	B	B	L
I	M	F	H	E	S	L	G	I	I	B	E	U	N	S
T	A	R	H	Y	T	N	C	V	S	V	M	T	N	D
N	R	A	O	N	I	E	O	E	A	T	A	G	A	U
E	T	N	W	N	L	M	L	D	E	L	O	R	V	V
M	K	C	A	A	L	S	S	E	R	T	C	A	A	E
E	E	E	R	F	L	E	V	R	A	M	S	Y	N	N
L	L	I	D	A	S	O	R	A	L	E	D	U	I	T
C	E	O	J	I	G	V	I	D	E	O	G	A	M	E

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Actress, Amelia, Celarie, Cleaning Lady, Clementine, Daredevil, Debut, De La Rosa, District, Drama, Elektra, Eva, Fanny, Film, France, G.I. Joe, Gods of Egypt, Gray, Hathor, Howard, Jinx, Jonathan, Karate, Les Bleus, Les Fils Du Vent, Marvel, Maurier, Minavann, Movie, Natchios, New York, Ninja, Paris, Role, Smart, Still, Tao, Thirteen, Tsu, Video Game

Yesterday's Answer: Cave Diving

The NEW **TELEWORD VINTAGE COLLECTION EDITION #1** can be purchased on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Jokic leads Nuggets against Warriors as Denver improves to 8-1

DENVER (AP)—An exhausted Nikola Jokic had 35 points and 13 rebounds in more than 36 minutes of action to help the Denver Nuggets hold off the Golden State Warriors 108-105 on Wednesday night.

Reggie Jackson, filling in for an injured Jamal Murray, added 20 points to help the defending champion Nuggets improve to an NBA-best 8-1 overall and 6-0 at home.

Jokic played the entire third quarter in an effort to help out a struggling bench unit. He also exerted energy trying to fend off Warriors big man Kevon Looney. Jokic had a chance to wrap up the win at the free throw line with 15 seconds left and the Nuggets up 107-105, but missed both.

Stephen Curry's floater in the lane to tie it up was off the mark and the ball went out of bounds off the Warriors. Jackson hit one of two free throws with 3.5 seconds remaining, and Klay Thompson couldn't get a shot off at the buzzer.

Michael Porter Jr. scored 17 points for Denver, and Aaron Gordon added 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Curry, fresh off winning the Western Conference player of the week award, was hounded all night, mostly by Kentavious Caldwell-Pope, and finished with 23 points. Thompson had 15.

76ERS 106, CELTICS 103

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Joel Embiid had 27 points and 10 rebound and Philadelphia beat Boston for its sixth straight victory after a season-opening loss.

Tyrese Maxey added 25 points for the Eastern Conference-leading 76ers. Kristaps Porzingis led Boston (5-2) with 29 points.

The Sixers were amped for the first game between the long-time rivals since their Eastern Conference semifinal matchup last season. The 76ers blew a 3-2 series lead and collapsed in Game 6 and 7 losses that ushered in a summer of upheaval. Coach Doc Rivers was fired and replaced by Nick Nurse. James Harden soon demanded a trade and never again played for the Sixers.

KNICKS 126, SPURS 105

NEW YORK (AP)—Victor Wembanyama's first game at Madison Square Garden was one of the worst of his young career, with the San Antonio rookie managing just one basket in the first three quarters in New York's victory.

The 7-foot-3 Wembanyama missed his first seven shots and had more airballs (2) than field goals through three quarters, when the Knicks led by as much as 30 points. He was in danger of failing to reach double figures for the first time before scoring eight points in the fourth to finish with 14 on 4-for-14 shooting.

Jalen Brunson scored 25 points for the Knicks. RJ Barrett added 24 points and six assists, while Julius Randle had 23 points and 16 rebounds.

BUCKS 129, PISTONS 118

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Damian Lillard scored 34 points, Bobby Portis added 18 and Milwaukee rallied to beat Detroit in a game in which Bucks star Giannis Antetokounmpo was ejected midway through the third quarter.

Antetokounmpo was ejected with nine minutes left after picking up his second technical foul for apparently taunting a defender after scoring on a dunk. Antetokounmpo had 15 points on 6-of-16 shooting and nine rebound.

AP

Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic, left, drives past Golden State Warriors forward Trayce Jackson-Davis in the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023, in Denver.

Cade Cunningham scored 33 points for Detroit. The Pistons were missing six players due to illness and injury.

SUNS 116, BULLS 115, OT

CHICAGO (AP)—Jusuf Nurkic powered to the basket for a layup with 7.3 seconds left in overtime and Phoenix outlasted Chicago in Bradley Beal's Suns debut.

Grayson Allen scored 26 points, hitting a career-high eight 3-pointers, and Kevin Durant added 25 points to help the Suns win their second straight. Nurkic had 20 points. He failed to ice it with a pair of free throws with 0.4 seconds left—missing the first, then missing the rim on the second when he was trying to miss.

Acquired from Washington in June, Beal had 13 points after sitting out the first seven games of the season because of a back injury.

Nikola Vucevic scored 26 points for Chicago.

NETS 100, CLIPPERS 93

NEW YORK (AP)—Lonnie Walker came off the bench to score 21 points and Brooklyn beat Los Angeles.

Former Nets star James Harden had 12 points and eight rebounds in his second game with Los Angeles since being acquired from Philadelphia on Oct. 30. Paul George led the Clippers with 24 points.

Cam Thomas scored 14 points in the first half for the Nets before leaving early in the third quarter after spraining his left ankle.

THUNDER 128, CAVALIERS 120

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 43 points and Oklahoma City beat Cleveland.

Gilgeous-Alexander made 15 of 22 field goals and 12 of 13 free throws. He fell one point short of his career high and scored at least 40 for the eighth time. He also had seven rebounds and six assists.

Caris LeVert scored 29 points for Cleveland. Donovan Mitchell, who entered as the NBA's leading scorer at 32.5 points per game, had 20 on 8-for-23 shooting.

HEAT 108, GRIZZLIES 102

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Bam Adebayo had 30 points and 11 rebounds and Miami held off Memphis for its first road victory of the season.

Adebayo had 16 points in the fourth as Miami weathered a pair of Memphis rallies. The Grizzlies cut it to 105-102 on Santi Aldama's 3-pointer with 35.5 seconds left, but Miami rookie Jaime Jaquez Jr. countered with a 3 with 18.4 left to seal it.

Jaren Jackson Jr. led Memphis with 28 points.

ROCKETS 128, LAKERS 94

HOUSTON (AP)—Jalen Green scored 28 points in three quarters and Houston never trailed against Los Angeles.

The Rockets have won four straight after dropping their first three games this season. They've won four in a row for the first time since winning seven consecutive games in late 2021.fourth with the game out of hand.

Rui Hachimura scored 24 for Los Angeles. LeBron James had a season-low 18 in a game in which Los Angeles was without Anthony Davis because of a groin injury.

RAPTORS 127, MAVERICKS 116

DALLAS (AP)—Pascal Siakam had 31 points and 12 rebounds, OG Anunoby scored 26 and Toronto beat Dallas to complete a two-game sweep in Texas.

Three nights after Toronto rallied from 22 points down for a win at San Antonio, Siakam and Anunoby combined for all the points on an 11-0 run that broke a 73-all tie in the third quarter.

Luka Doncic scored 31 points and Kyrie Irving had 22 for the Mavericks, who lost for the first time in four home games this season.

TIMBERWOLVES 122, PELICANS 101

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Anthony Edwards scored 26 points and had a season-high eight assists and Minnesota beat shorthanded New Orleans.

Karl-Anthony Towns scored 23 points on 9-of-12 shooting and Rudy Gobert had 17 points and 20 rebounds to help Minnesota win its fourth straight game.

Brandon Ingram had 24 points for the Pelicans. New Orleans was without its two leading scorers, with Zion Williamson out for personal reasons and CJ McCollum sidelined for the second straight game by a collapsed lung.

KINGS 121, TRAIL BLAZERS 118, OT

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Domantas Sabonis had 27 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists, Malik Monk made two critical free throws with 13 seconds left in overtime and Sacramento beat Portland.

Monk scored Sacramento's final nine points in regulation, then was scoreless in overtime before getting fouled by Toumani Camara and putting the Kings up three. Jerami Grant missed two 3-pointers for Portland before the final buzzer.

Monk finished with 23 points and 10 assists to help the Kings snap a three-game skid Grant had a season-high 38 points and nine rebounds for Portland.

PACERS 134, JAZZ 118

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Aaron Nesmith scored 24 points and Bennedict Mathurin and Myles Turner each added 22 to help Indiana beat Utah.

Tyrese Haliburton scored all 16 of his points in the second half and finished with 13 assists. Jalen Smith had 16 points and 11 rebounds.

Jordan Clarkson led Utah with a season-high 33 points. The Jazz lost their fourth in a row and fell to 0-5 on the road.

WIZARDS 132, HORNETS 116

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Kyle Kuzma scored 33 points and Washington made 18 3-pointers to beat Charlotte and snap a four-game losing streak.

Danilo Gallinari and Delon Wright each added 18 points and Landry Shamet had 15 as Washington's reserves outscored Charlotte's 72-23. LaMelo Ball had a season-high 34 points for the Hornets.

Both teams are 2-5. They will meet again Friday night in Washington in an NBA In-Season Tournament game.

Magic, Hawks set to face off in Mexico City, a potential NBA expansion site

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

It'll be a home game for the Orlando Magic on Thursday night, when they take on the Atlanta Hawks in Mexico City.

It'll feel like home in a way to Magic coach Jamahl Mosley, too.

Mosley has been to Mexico to coach before, as an assistant. And his basketball ties there run even deeper—after college, he was part of a team that toured Mexico for about four weeks with some other potential pro players, facing off against some local and national squads. Now, he's an NBA head coach there for the first time.

"I think it's absolutely fantastic," Mosley said. "I think it's so amazing for our league, for everyone involved in basketball—fans or parts of organizations. I think it's so great that we continue to use basketball as a way to bring people together, to celebrate each other, to celebrate the beauty of the game."

The Magic and Hawks—it's technically a home game for Orlando—are meeting in what'll be the 32nd time including preseason contests that the NBA has brought a game to a country with, by metrics provided by the league, about 30 million basketball fans.

It's also in a city that sits about 7,350 feet above sea level, significantly higher than what NBA teams face when playing in Denver or Utah.

"I'm very excited," Magic guard Jalen Suggs said. "It's a unique opportunity to come out and play in a different environment, to come out and play the game of basketball and continue to spread the game. It's becoming a very global game."

The game is one of four regular-season contests that'll be played outside current NBA cities this season. Besides Hawks-Magic, there will be a game between Brooklyn and Cleveland in Paris on Jan. 11.

There will also be two games in Las Vegas on Dec. 7 serving as the semifinals of the NBA's new in-season tournament—along with a championship game there on Dec. 9 that will not count in the standings—though it's not uncommon for the league to have a presence there. Vegas is a past All-Star weekend host, is the site of Summer League each year and is prominently mentioned as an expansion target.

Mexico City, which now has a G League team, is thought to be a possible expansion site as well. Hawks coach Quin Snyder said this trip is an opportunity for his team to see a different culture.

"I know our players and organization really look forward to that opportunity as a unique one," Snyder said. "And playing in front of fans from a different country that are passionate will be really a memorable and exciting experience."

It's also a chance for players to brush up on their Spanish. Hawks guard Trae Young is visiting Mexico City for the first time, and said he knows a little bit of the language.

Maybe a very little bit, as it turns out.

NFL's youth movement at quarterback reaches new milestone

By JOSH DUBOW
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

The generational shift at quarterback in the NFL reached a new milestone last week.

For the first time ever, every player who threw a pass in the NFL in Week 9 was born in 1990 or later, with 15 of the 28 starting quarterbacks last week age 25 or younger.

The run of quarterbacks born in the 1970s ended with Tom Brady's retirement after last season. Injuries to Aaron Rodgers, Matthew Stafford, Kirk Cousins and Ryan Tannehill, and a bye week for Russell Wilson, kept the QBs born in the 1980s off the field last week. This was the first time since Week 6 of the 2002 season that no quarterback born in the 1980s took the field.

There were seven rookie starters last week—one shy of the non-replacement player record set in Week 16 of the 2019 season—with Arizona's Clayton Tune and Minnesota's Jaren Hall getting their first career starts. That raised the total of rookie starting QBs this season to nine, tying the non-replacement record set in 2019.

The record for most starting rookie QBs since starts began being tracked in 1950 is expected to be set this week after Giants coach Brian Daboll said Tommy DeVito will get the start Sunday against Dallas following Daniel Jones' season-ending injury.

The youth movement at quarterback has played a role in the struggles on offense across the league in the first half of the season, with scoring at its lowest mark through nine weeks since 2007.

AP

Houston Texans quarterback C.J. Stroud looks to pass against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023, in Houston.

More than 70% of games so far this season have featured at least one quarterback age 25 or younger, with the 126 total starts by quarterbacks that young the most ever through nine weeks.

While many of the young QBs have struggled, Houston rookie C.J. Stroud has looked like a polished veteran. He threw for a rookie-record 470 yards in a comeback win over Tampa Bay last week with five TDs and no interceptions.

His 147.8 rating was the highest ever for a rookie with at least 30 attempts, and Stroud became the sixth player ever to throw for at least 450 yards with five TDs and no interceptions, joining Jared Goff, Peyton Manning, Donovan McNabb, Ben Roethlisberger and Y.A. Tittle.

HISTORIC PERFORMANCES

There were a few other notable performances from Week 9, including one that put New Orleans' do-everything tight end Taysom Hill in Hall of Fame company.

Hill caught his 10th career TD pass and threw his 12th in a win over Chicago to go along with the 26 he has on the ground. He became the first player since Hall of Famer Frank Gifford to record at least 10 touchdowns passing, rushing and receiving.

Gifford reached that milestone in 1957, while the only other players to do it reached those marks in the earlier days of the NFL, with Hall of Famers Charley Trippi, Red Grange and Jimmy Conzelman already in the club.

Minnesota's Joshua Dobbs did something that hadn't been accomplished since 1947 when he threw TD passes in his debut for the Vikings a week after doing the same for the Cardinals.

Dobbs was the fifth player since 1947 to throw a pass for two teams in two weeks, according to Sportradar, and he joined Paul Governali as the only ones to throw at least two TD passes in both games. Governali did it for the Boston Yanks and the New York Giants.

Stroud's Texans teammate, Dare Ogunbowale, had another noteworthy performance. With Ka'imi Fairbairn injured, Ogunbowale came on in emergency duty and kicked a 29-yard field goal in the fourth quarter.

He became the first nonkicker or punter to make a field goal in a game since Wes Welker did it on Oct. 10, 2004, for Miami against New England, and the first running back to do it since Tony Galbreath kicked two for New Orleans against Green Bay on Sept. 9, 1979.

DIVISIONAL DOINGS

For the first time since the start of the eight-division era in 2002, every AFC East team left the week a loser.

Miami, Buffalo, the New York Jets and New England all lost this week. The AFC East had been the only division not to have a 0-4 week since 2002. Every division other than the AFC West (two) had at least five of those weeks, led by the NFC West with 10.

The AFC North swept the week, with Baltimore, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Cincinnati all winning to improve to 5-3 or better—the first time every team in a division had a winning percentage of .600 or better heading into Week 10.

It was the fifth 4-0 week for the AFC North since realignment. The AFC West has the most with 10.

It was a rough week for NFC West teams other than idle San Francisco. Seattle lost 37-3 to Baltimore, Arizona lost 27-0 to Cleveland and the Rams lost 20-3 to Green Bay.

The six points were the fewest scored by a division playing at least three games in a week since the 2002 realignment, beating the previous low of 20 points in three games for the NFC North in Week 14 of the 2012 season.

NEW YUCK, NEW YUCK

The performance so far this season for the New York teams has been rather offensive.

The Jets and Giants are the bottom two teams in the NFL in points scored on offense, with the Giants at 10.4 offensive points per game and the Jets at 14.1.

Both teams scored only eight offensive touchdowns in their first eight games of the season. The only other teams to do that in the past five seasons were the Jets in both 2020 (seven TDs) and 2019 (eight).

The Giants and Jets have combined for 207 points scored on offense so far this season—a mark reached by six other teams individually.

Saints' celebrating Taysom Hill's historic versatility and ever-evolving role

METAIRIE, La. (AP)—Taysom Hill's teammates and coaches in New Orleans don't envision other NFL teams emulating the unusual way the Saints have deployed their backup quarterback.

There are reasons, they say, that Hill is the first NFL player in more than half a century to have 10 or more touchdowns running (26), receiving (10) and passing (11).

"There's not a lot of guys built to do the things he's able to do. I mean, there's just not," Saints coach Dennis Allen said this week. "There's been a lot of guys that are fast and athletic, but to have the combination of size, speed, athleticism, power—it's unique."

This week, the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, asked for elements of the the 6-foot-2, 221-pound Hill's uniform from last Sunday's game to put on display. That's when Hill caught his 10th career touchdown reception—and later threw his 11th career touchdown pass. He has 26 career TDs rushing.

The Saints are sending a ball from the game, the play sheet Hill wore on his wrist and one of Hill's gloves.

Just three other players in NFL history—Red Grange, Charley Trippi and Frank Gifford—have had double-digit TDs rushing, passing and receiving, according to statmuse. Gifford, the youngest of the three, retired after the 1964 season. All three were inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. None are living.

This week, the 33-year-old Hill is preparing to play against the Minnesota Vikings, who are trying to figure out how best to respond to his presence at various spots on the field.

"He's kind of all around the field," Vikings defensive back Byron Murphy said, noting that while Hill often runs when he lines up at quarterback, he's always a threat to pass. "Just a playmaker, I'd say. He's just a guy that goes out there and plays football."

The Saints embraced player versatility under former coach Sean Payton, who was Hill's first coach in New Orleans in 2017. That has continued under Allen, a longtime Saints assistant succeeding Payton.

This season, the Saints also have begin using 324-pound defensive tackle Khalin Saunders as a running back in short-yardage situations. Last Sunday against Chicago, the Saints subbed Hill in for starter Derek Carr for a short pass play that was designed to go to Saunders in the right flat.

But Saunders attracted two defenders, so Hill looked left for tight end Foster Moreau, who also was double-covered along the goal line, before finding fellow tight end Juwan Johnson open over the middle in the back of the end zone.

To Saunders, Hill's ability to play quarterback sets him apart from other strong, fast players in the NFL who take on multiple roles.

"I've obviously played with some guys that can play multiple positions," Saunders said. "A lot of guys, they can run and catch, but the throwing part is what makes him different. That's the first guy I've ever played with that truly, it's not just like a gimmick. No, he truly plays all of these positions. ... He's one of a kind for sure."

Hill has said that he shows up for work never quite sure of what he might be asked to do.

"I know I'll either be blocking, throwing or running or catching," Hill said with a grin earlier this year, adding that his role on the team likely will continue to evolve. "I'm sure as we get to Week 14, 15, 18, it'll look different."

In a Week 8 victory at Indianapolis, Hill had two touchdowns rushing on plays in which he took the snap in shotgun formation. Last Sunday, he was catching a touchdown pass in the right flat from Carr.

Carr, who is in his first season in New Orleans, describes himself as a longtime fan of former Saints QB Drew Brees and said he used to question from afar the wisdom of subbing Hill in at QB for Brees for a play here or there.

"But when I got here, I see why," continued Carr, who ran onto the field to celebrate Hill's TD toss to Johnson last Sunday. "I celebrate him every chance I get."

Hill also continues to play upback on the punt team, meaning there's always the threat of a fake, and he has been deployed to block punts as well, getting a hand on more than one.

"He truly has embraced whatever position or positions they have him at and because he's embraced that he's able to excel," Saints offensive lineman James Hurst said. "He's just said, 'You know what, I'm just going to be the best football player I can be and that's it ... and I'm going to score points any way I can.' It's just exciting to have a guy like that and that attitude is contagious."

RAMSEY

From page 23

In the mixed doubles 50, Eun Kyoung Lee and Dong Min Lee will take on Lydia Tan and Jeff Race and Sally Lee and David Lai.

Race, CNMI Sports Hall of Famer and many-time national coach, will then strut his stuff against David Lai in the men's 60 singles.

In the men's doubles 4.0, Bong Gamab and Ed Javier, Marlon Bercilla and J.R. Jacinto, and Wataru Kodakura and David Minsoo Kwon will try to beat each other.

The women's doubles 3.0 will have a five-team field made up of Jin Hua and Tina Hart, Mae Kim and Mei Rengiil, Jenna and Ming Pascual, Rie Nakai and Thu Tran, and Min Han and Jing Zhao.

Jelexia and Felix Rulona, Mihoko Suzuki and Jim Tuttle, Rui Chao Sun and Joe Quitugua, and Mae Kim and J.R. Jacinto are the entries in the mixed doubles 3.0.

The 12th TanHoldings Classic would like to thank the following sponsors of the tournament: Grand Slam Sponsors Quality Distributor of Guam, Mobil Oil Marianas, ASC Trust, and TSL Foundation; Match Point Sponsors IT&E, D&Q, and Shirley's Guam, Ace Sponsors Alliance Metal Specialties and IShop; Advantage Sponsors Take Care and Tsang Brothers, and in-kind sponsors McDonalds Saipan and Guam, All-Star dba Boarderline Athlete's Foot, and Marpac.

VA'A

From page 24

and Justin Andrew.

"These young athletes are the future of the sport and we want to give them as many opportunities as we can to get them the exposure they need," team manager Justin Andrew said.

"We would like them to see and experience for themselves how is it like to compete outside the Micronesian Games, how the level of competition is very high when you see the regular powerhouse and world-class paddlers from Tahiti and New Caledonia in the waters. Get points from every race and seize the opportunity to race against the best," the team manager added.

The va'a (outrigger canoe) has a full field with the Cook Islands, Fiji, Guam, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Wallis & Futuna joining the NMI, New Caledonia, and Tahiti in the competition. Va'a races will run from Nov. 27 to Dec. 1 at the DC Park.

The competition will start with the women's and men's V1 and V12 500m races on Nov. 27, while the men's and women's V6 500m and 1,500m events are scheduled for Nov. 28. Long distance races will take place in the last two days of the event with the men's and women's V1 16K set for Nov. 30 and the men's and women's V6 24K slated on Dec. 1.

The NMI National Va'a Team and the rest of the Team Marianas delegation are supported by Joeten Daidai Foundation, Triple J, Crowne Plaza Resort, IT&E, IP&E, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Mobil, Tan Holdings, and McDonald's. ***(PR)***

ISAIAH

From page 24

Gymnasium Wednesday night.

The delegation's chef de mission, NMSA board member and PSS Athletics director Nick Gross, introduced each team member in all the 10 sports represented, the team's many sponsors, and the team's flagbearer.

The 10 sports Team Marianas is competing in are swimming, athletics, golf, weightlifting, soccer, bodybuilding, va'a, triathlon, tennis, and beach volleyball.

After the event, Marianas High School senior Aleksenko said he was happy and thankful for the appointment as the team's lone flagbearer.

"It felt good to be chosen and I was nervous because there were a lot of people. But I'm happy that I get to be the flagbearer," he said.

He added, "It's a pleasure to be the flagbearer, so thank you. I thought it wasn't just going to be me. I thought there were going to be more chosen from each team, so yeah it was unexpected."

For the upcoming competition, he said he's excited, hopes everyone does well, and wishes them the best of luck. Personally, he's expecting to bag at least three gold medals in his competitions.

He was one of two 2022 NMSA Student Athletes of the Year and he also won the award in 2021.

Aleksenko was part of the NMI Triathlon Team that won the bronze medal in the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games.

During the ceremony, speeches were made by Gross, Tan, Apatang, and national va'a coach/athlete Jason Tarkong.

Gross, as the emcee, welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for their support.

"We have arrived, and we are ready for departure. After months of training, and preparing our athletes and officials, all are set to proudly represent our islands and the 2023 Pacific Games," he said.

Gross congratulated the athletes on a great performance in the 2022 Pacific Mini Games and told them, "Next week, you will once again have a chance to display your skills, teamwork, and sports knowledge thanks to the collaborative efforts of the international sports federations and thanks to the support of families, friends, and other valuable sponsors. Team Marianas' participation in the Games has become a shared responsibility for individuals and groups throughout NMI, as our athletes, particularly our youth, compete in high level competition and experience unique cultures of our region."

He then went on to recognize the sponsors of the team, who each stood up and were met by rounds of applause. The sponsors were Joeten DaiDai Foundation, Triple J Saipan, IT&E/IP&E, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, TanHoldings, and McDonald's of Guam & Saipan.

For Tan's welcoming remarks, he acknowledged all the sponsors and said that without them, the charter flight that is flying the huge delegation would not be possible. He added that with the success of Team Marianas in the 2022 NMPMG, which had a big delegation of athletes, he knew that NMI could not send just 30 athletes to represent in the 2023 Pacific Games.

He went on to acknowledge Apatang and the delegates, as well as NMSA board members.

He also acknowledged the family members in attendance. "The athletes have been training for over a year in preparation for next week's departure. I know they sacrificed some family time, so without their support, they would not be here."

He added that the Games will also be live-streamed online so that people back home will be able to watch and cheer for them.

In Apatang's speech, he said, "It is always a pleasure, for Governor [Arnold] Palacios and I, to be able to recognize these dedicated athletes from the Northern Mariana Islands. We truly appreciate Team Marianas for the glory you continue to bring upon our islands." He also thanked coaches, parents, sponsors, and supporters of the team.

Apatang ended his speech with, "We all want to see Team Marianas succeed. Good luck to you and bring some trophies back home. I know you've been working hard for over a year, and now you just have to keep your heads up and be proud to represent the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas. Good luck and enjoy."

Afterwards, there was a photo-op for the athletes and the sponsors, then the athletes and NMSA board members, then families and supporters came out to take selfies and group photos with the team.

LEIGH GASES

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang gives his and Gov. Arnold Palacios' well wishes to the Team Marianas' delegation of over 100 during the sendoff ceremony to the Pacific Games Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

LEIGH GASES

Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan speaks to the crowd of over 100 delegates, sponsors, dignitaries, and supporters, while Team Marianas chef de mission Nick Gross looks on during the Pacific Games sendoff ceremony Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

GCA

From page 23

record for serving 41 straight. Imagine that 41." he said that he had asked Saures to show the team how to do it.

"That girl didn't lose a championship since 6th grade. It's a blessing to have her coach. And this is the biggest one, she inspired all of the players because they know that she's a good player. They see how she plays, the discipline... she brings a lot of energy to our team. I know we won the last two years, but I think it's going to be a better team."

He said he looks forward to this year's championship, and said that he can see the improvements on the sport. "The level is going up. The coaches and volleyball here in the CNMI has taken off... so I'm looking forward for the championship hopefully we're going to have another win this year."

In other games, GCA 2 beat Chacha Oceanview Middle School, 21-11, 21-7; Tanapag Middle School defeated Mount Carmel 2. 21-16, 21-17; Francisco M. Sablan Middle School got the better of Saipan International School 2, 21-18, 21-11; Hopwood Middle School took care of Chacha Oceanview Middle School, 21-16, 21-18, and Saipan International School downed Saipan Community School, 22-20, 21-07.

ATHLETICS

From page 24

For the seven-member athletics team, the team members include Tania Tan, Lyle Andrew, Maria Quitugua, Theodore Rodgers, Alexander Camacho, Casey Cruz, and Pony Tang along with coach Greg Iginoef.

Tan is competing in the 10,000/5,000m/and half marathon, Andrews is for discus/shoput, Rodgers, Camacho, and Cruz are sprinting in the 100m/200m, Quitugua is in the javelin throw, and Tang is competing in the 1,500m/5,000m/and 3,000m steeplechase.

The team was hand-picked for their performance at the Oceania Cup last June. Rangamar said about the team, "We also went with young and up-and-coming athletes in hopes of getting them experience an anticipation of the Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands this coming year."

With that, Rangamar said most of the athletes are only in their second year of national team experience and exposure, "so I don't expect them to be on the podium but what we hope is that they get the experience needed in preparation for the upcoming Micronesian Games."

He added, "Tania Tan will probably be our only chance of getting on the podium due to her collegiate and international experience. Unfortunately, we just don't have the funding to be sending our athletes off to more competition and experience."

As for the athletes' training Rangamar said they train early in the morning from 5am to 6:30am, Mondays through Saturdays.

"Reasoning for the early morning hours is dealing with the congestion and hassle of walkers and other clubs using the facility in the evenings which is out of our control," said Rangamar.

Overall, he said, "the athletes have acclimated to the early morning training which in turn gives them more free time in the evening to deal with school work and other activities. Tania Tan trains through the University of Hawaii and will have her own travel arrangements. Lyle Andrews trains out of Guam (University of Guam) will be arriving this Friday to join the team."

Tan is arriving in the Solomons on Nov. 24 as she said she still has classes and can't miss a lot of school days, especially with finals approaching.

When asked how she feels heading up to the Games, she said, "I've never been to the Solomon Islands so I'm excited to go. I know some people from there through tennis and running so I'm excited to see them again too. Also, since the NMI is chartering a flight, our team would have many more athletes so I'm excited to watch and cheer everyone on!"

She added, "I'm honestly just honored to be given this opportunity to compete for our islands in this competition. Whatever the result may be, I just hope to make our islands and everyone back home proud."

As for the athletics team, she said, "We have a young team this year but I have confidence that everyone will do their best. Even though I'm not on Saipan, I know the team has been training day in and day out so I can't wait to see all their training pay off."

Ramon Tebuteb, NMA president, said, "Just want to extend, on behalf of the board, sincerest Thank you to our coaches, athletes, and parents for their unwavering support, commitment and sacrifices. Their extreme dedication is greatly appreciated."

He added, "Significantly, and throughout the season our generous sponsors and partners are very much appreciated. I cannot thank them enough. These mixes are the pillars of our community's wellness in all life's aspects."

In the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games, athletics delivered two bronze medals by way of Dennis Borja and the women's 4x100m relay team of Cruz, Zarinae Sapong, Quitugua, and Kina Rangamar.

SUFC bags wins in TakeCare soccer

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Southern United Football Club's teams bagged wins in their respective divisions of the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Fall 2023 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Saturday.

SUFC's 14U girls team overpowered Paire FC, 8-2.

It was a goal-frenzy for SUFC with back-to-back goals by Brianne Echalico in the sixth and seventh minute. Paire's Windsor Gross made it 1-3 in the 10th minute, but SUFC went on overdrive and scored three more goals before the end of the first half.

Even before Paire could score their second goal, SUFC's strikers put in the last three of their goals quickly, to make it 8-1. At the end of the match, SUFC's Selena Atalig and Jadine Higgins scored two each.

Paire's Iris Rasa scored their second goal in the 36th minute and it was too little, too late to catch up to SUFC's large lead.

SUFC's 17U girls team outlasted Shirley's FC, 3-1.

SUFC's Brianne Echalico drew first blood in the seventh minute, but after just a couple of minutes, Addalee Taflinger evened it up.

However, Shirley's offense was quickly halted and that was all they could muster, while SUFC's Tamaesha Diaz and Rosie Saralu added two more goals that clinched the win.

SUFC's 12U boys team ousted Kanoa FC, 3-1.

It was a quick and easy game for SUFC as all three of their goals were made consecutively even before the sixth minute.

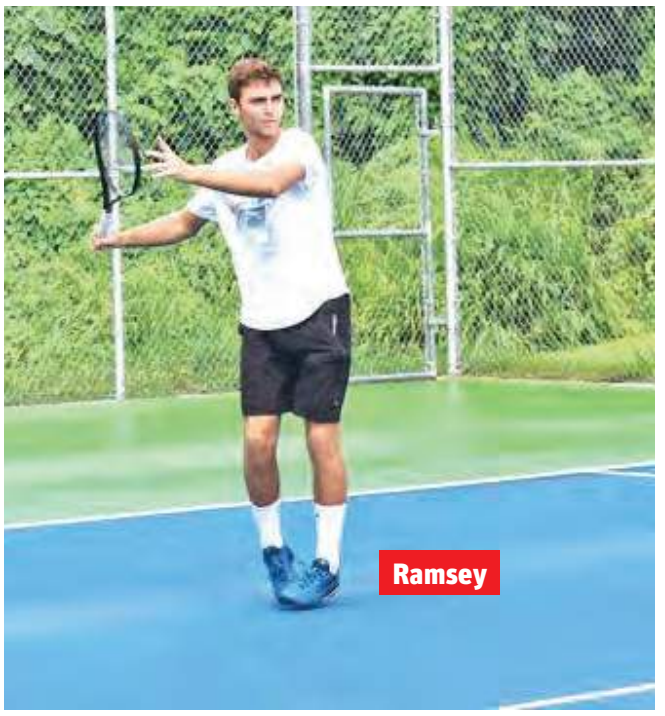
Two goals were made before Kanoa's Izaiah Tenorio scored their lone goal a few seconds later. Kanoa couldn't add another even after the first half came and went.

In other results, 17U boys Kanoa team pummeled Matansa FC, 6-2 and Latte FC blanked MP United FC, 6-0; in the 17U girls division, Kanoa defeated MPU, 4-2; in the 14U boys division, Latte had a field day against Shirley's, 16-0; MPU beat MPU 2, 5-2; and Kanoa silenced Matansa, 2-0; in the 14U girls division, Latte edged Kanoa 2, 5-0; Kanoa outgoaled Shirley's, 5-0; and in the 12U boys division, Paire slipped past Shirley's, 3-2.

NMIFA

Southern United Football Club's Selena Atalig tries to traverse past a Shirley's FC player during their game in the TakeCare Youth Soccer League 2023 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Ramsey and company warm up for Pacific Games



Ramsey

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Colin Ramsey and the rest of the CNMI National Tennis Team get to sharpen their games as they prepare for next week's 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands by taking part in this weekend's 12th TanHoldings Tennis Classic at the American Memorial Park and Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan tennis courts.

Ramsey headlines a full slate in the men's open field as the No. 1 seed. Jonathan Jackson is the second seed, followed by veteran Tomas Abel at No. 3 and newly minted TanHoldings Tennis Classic boys 18 champion David Kwon at No. 4.

Ramsey will then partner with Pacific Games teammate Moris Villanueva in the men's doubles open where fellow national players Nason Wessel and June Yu are also in the mix along with Seungwoo "Henry" Choi and Jonathan Jackson.

In the women's open, top seed Anne Lee will renew her budding rivalry with second seed Hoo Wang, which she beat in a thrilling three-set finals in last week's girls 18 championship match.

In the women's doubles open, Lee will pair up with Amelie Terlaje and the duo will challenge Melody Johnson and Mikayla Lopez and sisters Irin and Serin Chung.

Three teams will contest the mixed doubles open title—Lina Tsukagoshi and Siwoo Lee, Hoo Wang and David Kwon, and Hannah Chae and June Yu.

In the men's 3.0, Jacky Chen, Haoyang Song, Daniel Kang, and Chris Zhu will compete in the division, while the women's 2.0 will have a crowded field of Lydia Lee, We Tang, Jenny Parl, Rui Chao Sun, Hyejin Lee, and Soung Mi Yang.

In the men's 40, Edwin Simbulan, Jacky Chen, and Marlon Bercilla will battle each other for supremacy.

In the men's doubles 40, Salvador Garote and Art Lopez are the top seed, followed by fellow veterans Ronnie Decena and George Poquiz, and Ed Javier and Ronnie Lacbayo.

The women's doubles 40 is a two-team race between Annie Lai and Lydia Tan and Yuko Kumada and Harumi Suzuki.

The teams of Yuko Kumada and Reo Arriola and Annie and David Lai, meanwhile, will contest the mixed doubles 40 championship.

In the men's 50, Dong Min Lee, Renato Espanola, and Brian Wessel will show younger netters how it's done. Ditto for men's doubles 50 teams Bong Gamab and Ronnie Lacbayo and Kentaro Imaya and Brian Wessel

See RAMSEY on Page 22

GCA draws first blood as MS v-ball starts

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

With an impressive start to the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls Middle School Volleyball League 2023-2024 season, two-time defending champion Grace Christian Academy quickly took home the win over Dandan Middle School in a two-set matchup last Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium in Susupe.

Spectators and supporters had gathered for what one remarked as the shortest game ever, coming to a little over 30 minutes as GCA breezed through the first set with a 21-7 win, and began the second set with an 8-0 roll. During the final set DMS was able to sneak in 3 points bringing the point board up 11-3, but eventually when the set ended GCA took the win, 21-3.

In a postgame interview, GCA head coach Cesar Libut told *Saipan Tribune* that he feels good and excited about the championship this year, and confident in their players as many of them are returning players or as he put it "veterans."

Libut said the team feels optimistic as well "The players are really excited, you know there's pressure because we did two in a row, but these guys are really working so hard... I think the biggest one this year most of them wanted to spike because before they just bump, bump, so they wanted to learn how to spike right away. "

The team rotation is made of Llyana Jairah Libut, Neveah Camacho, Eliane Pagaduan, Aiyana Fatialofa, Wylynn Pua, Guadalupe Villagomez, Sarah Lim, Keala Takeda, and Jojo Yarofalir; eight of which are 8th graders, and one 7th grader.

"It's a good team and they're all coming back." Libut said, and added that he also felt very pleased and blessed to have GCA alumni and HS athlete Katriel Saures as one of their new coaches. "This girl has a

See GCA on Page 22

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Grace Christian Academy's Aiyana Fatialofa jumps to spike the ball back into Dandan Middle School territory last Tuesday during the start of the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls Middle School Volleyball League 2023-2024 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium in Susupe.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Grace Christian Academy Volleyball coaches Katriel Saures and Cesar Libut congratulate their team after they started off the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls Middle School Volleyball League 2023-2024 with a win over Dandan Middle School at the Marianas High School Gymnasium in Susupe last Tuesday.

Jokic leads Nuggets against Warriors as Denver improves to 8-1.

PAGE 20

Saipan Tribune
Sports

SUFC bags wins in TakeCare soccer.

PAGE 23

Isaiah is NMI flagbearer for Pacific Games

LEIGH GASES
Team Marianas' flagbearer Isaiah Aleksenko waves the CNMI flag during the sendoff ceremony to the Pacific Games Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

National team swimmer Isaiah Aleksenko was chosen as Team Marianas' flagbearer for the Pacific Games that will be held in Honiara, Solomon Islands from Nov. 19 to Dec. 2.

The hour-long sendoff ceremony was attended by the over 100 members of the delegation, sponsors, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan and NMSA members, Public School System interim Education commissioner Donna Flores, and family, friends, and supporters of the team that filled up the Gilbert C. Ada

See ISAIAH on Page 22

LEIGH GASES
Team Marianas' delegation of over 100 poses for a photo with sponsors and dignitaries including Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, seated front row, third from left, during the sendoff ceremony to the Pacific Games Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Athletics team hopes to set some PBs, NMI records in Solomons

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

With a small and young athletics delegation Pacific Games bound, Northern Marianas Athletics development manager and coach Elias Rangamar said that he hopes they will either set some personal bests or break CNMI athletics records.

During the Games which is from Nov. 19 to Dec. 10, the NMI is sending a delegation with over 100 athletes and coaches to Honiara, Solomon Islands to compete in 10 sports.

See ATHLETICS on Page 22

LEIGH GASES
The CNMI National Athletics Team, from left, Pony Tang, Theodore Rodgers, Maria Quitugua, Casey Cruz, Andrew Camacho, and coach Greg Igineof pose for a group photo during the presentation of athletes during the Pacific Games send-off ceremony at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium Wednesday night. Not pictured are Tania Tan, who is at the University of Hawai'i and Lyle Andrew, who is at the University of Guam.

Va'a gives opportunities to young athletes

The Northern Mariana Islands Va'a National Team is made up of many young paddlers and the sport's leadership would like to give them opportunities to experience competing in high-level events such as the upcoming 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, the Solomon Islands.

Eleven of the 11 members of the team are between the ages of 16 and 22 with high school students Tyler Pedro Andrew, Yu Ling Chai, Mitchelle Kukkun, Gracie Mendiola, Eva Nicole Weaver, Terry Ruben, VInalynn Oronigo, Michael Peters on the squad. Also making it to the national team are Jenisha Dubrall, Willie Cabrera, and Dayne Lou Macaranas, who are in their early 20s, while completing the squad are Momoko and Sakurako Halstead, Oliver Igisaiar, Ashley Pangelinan, athlete/coach Jason Tarkong and Richard Sikkel, and team managers Joseph Weaver

See VA'A on Page 22